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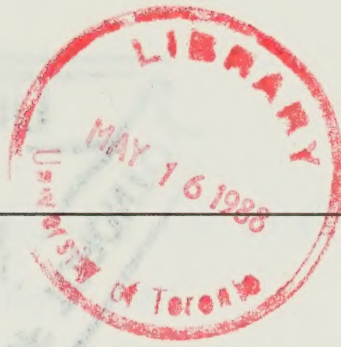
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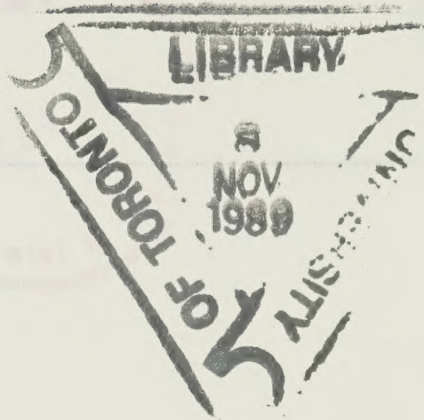
Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Tuesday, May 3, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 3, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WATER POLLUTION

Mrs. Grier: This morning the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) issued a press release. He issues one every morning, but today's says that Metro's main sewage treatment plant "is the single largest polluter of Toronto shoreline waters."

Surprise, surprise! Some of us have been saying that for years. The members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees who work at Ashbridges Bay have been saying that for years. The citizens' committee that produced a waterfront remedial action plan for the city of Toronto said that to the minister two years ago.

There are more surprises, or nonsurprises, in this press release. "Improvements in water quality could be achieved" if we cut down on lake filling. Where is the moratorium on lake filling that I asked the minister to impose three years ago? Where are the strict controls on dumping in the lake all across Metro's waterfront, not just on the Leslie Street spit?

"More effective measures to control discharges from storm sewers": Where are the detention tanks we called for in July 1985? Unfortunately, the solution of the minister is no surprise either: "MISA will greatly reduce pollution of Toronto's offshore waters." If we could wait so long.

When is this minister going to give some priority to a remedial action plan for the Metro Toronto waterfront? The International Joint Commission called for one to be completed by December 1986. It is now well into 1988, and what are we getting? More announcements, more studies and no sense of urgency.

TRANSIT SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED

Mr. Wiseman: I have with me here today a copy of a letter written to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) from the president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. The letter deals with the important issue of transportation for the disabled and the ever-

increasing need for this valuable service in Ontario.

Because the government has recently proposed a broadening of the criteria for these services to include all persons who are physically unable to use conventional transit as opposed to those unable to board ordinary transit, as the previous ruling held, AMO predicts that the number of trips requiring this special service will increase by at least 20 per cent.

The number of disabled transit riders already increases at the rate of about 12 per cent annually, so the combined 32 per cent increase in the number of users of this special transit will represent a major financial burden, a burden which the province is now planning to turn over to the municipalities.

AMO also indicates that the province is going to provide an operating subsidy to cover only 50 per cent of the operating costs, while it is already providing a 75 per cent capital subsidy for regular transit service. It would only seem fair that if the province is going to legislate a different definition—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

EDDIE WHITALL

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to bring to the attention of this House a good-news item, a story about a very courageous young man from Mississauga.

One year ago, on April 20, 1987, Eddie Whittall fell beneath a train on the Canadian National tracks in Port Credit. Doctors, nurses and ambulance attendants rushed to the scene and found that Eddie had lost two arms and a leg. Today, one year later, Eddie has one artificial arm and an artificial leg, and his other arm was sewn back on at the Hospital for Sick Children in a marathon 12-hour operation.

He was interviewed by the Mississauga News last week in tribute to the way he has handled the accident and the great strides he has made in one year. Eddie is a grade 8 student, and one of his favourite pastimes is to ride about on his new bike. He certainly has not let the accident get in the way of all his activities and he enjoys keeping active every moment of the day. The Hugh

MacMillan Medical Centre has aided Eddie in learning how to use his artificial limbs. He is now a very independent individual.

The two things that were highlighted during Eddie's interview were his sense of humour and his maturity. He is certainly a young man who has conquered the trauma of a near-fatal accident and who continues to face life's challenges with independence and strength, a young man whom we can all look up to with pride and gratitude for showing all of us how to deal with adversity. Thank you, Eddie.

BOISE CASCADE CANADA LTD.

Mr. Hampton: Last week Boise Cascade Canada announced it was permanently closing its stud mill operation in Kenora, a decision that will affect approximately 80 full-time, permanent jobs. This announcement by Boise Cascade is one which several ministers should take note of.

First, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) should take note. While the corporation announced that the closure is, in part, because of the softwood lumber export tax, there is also some hint that the closure may have something to do with a labour relations dispute which is currently under way. If that is the case, the Minister of Labour should look at this very carefully, because Boise Cascade has a long history of very serious and very deleterious labour disputes in northern Ontario.

Second, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) should take note, because if the mill is going to go out of production, and it has been allocated a timber supply, that timber supply should possibly go to someone else who can make better use of it.

Finally, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) should take note, because we are aware that the softwood lumber export tax has had an impact on all these communities. Now, with the loss of 80 permanent jobs, perhaps some of the \$30 million that sits in the Treasurer's account can come to the aid of those people displaced in Kenora.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Speaker: The member for Durham East.

Mr. Cureatz: Indeed, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Cureatz: I can only say to all the Liberal back-benchers that they should be in their ridings fielding questions about why the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) raised the tax to eight per cent from seven per cent. They are not going to get elected in here. They should go on back to their riding

offices. Now that I am on the topic, to heck with the speech.

I want to say to the government and to the Treasurer, who is here this afternoon, that with that money, that tax grab he has made—and I say this to the House leader—he has not spent a cent yet on the topic that is going to be close and dear to my heart; that is, landfill sites. I told the Treasurer last week, I am going to remind him again this week and I am going to be talking about it next week, that he is doing nothing.

The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) is travelling all around North America—Washington, New York, Detroit—talking about acid rain, but it is about time he got back to Ontario and started talking to Metropolitan Toronto about why it is going to be filling up the town of Newcastle with its garbage.

I say to the Treasurer that he should be ashamed of himself. Where is the Minister of the Environment? He is not here to listen to this. I say to the House leader—I say to both of them, the only two of the four people with some substance here—that they should be getting their act together and doing something about the tragedy we have in Ontario about landfill sites, where municipalities are pitting themselves against each other.

1340

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

Mr. Offer: I am pleased and honoured to rise and bring some more good news from the city of Mississauga, to rise and pay recognition to a number of individuals in my riding who have recently received Volunteer Service Awards.

These individuals are Jack Almedia, Maureen Bunt, M. Piara Singh Panglia, Fook-Sung Yau, Bisham Barran, Robert Houle, Mary Porter, Pearl Basnayake, Shanta Mendis and Digvijay Rana. They have all been recognized for many years of service performed for a nonprofit organization.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, all members of the Legislature are well aware of the great contribution by our volunteers throughout the province. In many ways our volunteers provide the push and impetus for so many worthwhile community projects.

In my riding of Mississauga North and indeed throughout the city of Mississauga, we are fortunate to have a great many dedicated, committed and tireless people like the award recipients. Volunteers are the heart, soul and spirit of the community, making an immeasur-

able contribution not only to my riding but also throughout the province.

Volunteerism is something which is found in every community, district, town and city. It is really characterized as people caring about others. To those award recipients and to those who have not received a formal award but who give so much of themselves, I offer my thank-you.

ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY

Mr. Reville: Mental Health Week observances continue. Two former psychiatric patients who tried to hand out information on electroshock therapy to patients at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry were arrested and charged yesterday.

If Mr. Weitz and Mr. Wild are found guilty, I think the Ministry of Health should pay the \$53.75 fine. If the Ministry of Health had got its act together and produced information about electroshock therapy for patients, as was recommended in 1985 by the Clark report, Mr. Weiss and Mr. Wild would not have to be doing it.

This is another case in which this government is asleep at the switch.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mr. B. Rae: I was hoping to be able to ask some questions of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), but given that he is not here, I will go to the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, with a question on his most recent budget. The public has now had some time in which to digest the tax increases that the Treasurer imposed on the public nearly two weeks ago.

Surely the Treasurer did not mean to increase the sales tax paid by a family at the poverty line by \$146 and yet, at the same time, to increase its tax credits by \$120. Surely the Treasurer made some mistake in grabbing \$26 in extra sales tax payable by families in Ontario living at the poverty line. Say it ain't so, Treasurer, say it ain't so.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I try to be grammatical and, in so doing, I want to tell the Leader of the Opposition something that he has heard from me once or twice before. That is, this budget, in line with the three previous budgets I presented to the House, has increased the tax reduction program of the province. At the same time, we have restructured the tax credit system, so that we feel the burden is not unfairly distributed on those least able to pay.

Taken as a whole, those people in the large group paying tax on incomes of \$25,000 or less

are paying no more now that this budget has been brought down than they did before. I cannot say there are no individuals within that group paying more, but from that group we are able to ascertain that the total revenues are no larger. In other words, the increase in revenue is designed to have an impact on higher incomes.

Mr. B. Rae: I did not hear a specific denial from the Treasurer that when it comes to the one per cent hike in sales tax—which this Liberal Party did not campaign on in the last election—when it comes to that sales tax increase on families at the poverty line, in fact, even when one rolls in the tax credits that the Treasurer referred to in his answer, that family is paying \$26 more to the Treasury of Ontario than it was last year.

Could the Treasurer also confirm that a middle-income family, a family making \$40,000, with one earner and two children under 16, is paying an increase in sales tax of some \$220 and that this family receives no tax credits for 1987 or for 1988?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable members may be aware that Treasury this year, following an initiative begun last year, has set up a computer in which honourable members or any citizen can feed in information having to do with the income situation and credit situation of any family in the province—not, of course, by name or by any kind of identification, but typical families. In that way, the tax payable is registered.

For me to know what the tax payable is for each of these many thousands of combinations and permutations is not possible. In answer to the honourable member's question, no.

Mr. B. Rae: The fact of the matter is that when it comes to the sales tax, this government is gouging people. It is taking money out of their pockets and it is doing it in a way that can only be described as unfair. At the same time, upper income people are still net beneficiaries of so-called tax reform as passed by the federal government.

I wonder if the Treasurer could explain why a family of four with one income earner making \$90,000, and two children under 16, would be paying \$103 less in income tax in 1988 compared to 1987, when a family making \$40,000 is paying more in terms of their provincial tax. If the Treasurer is so interested in tax fairness, why is the family of \$90,000 paying less when the family of \$40,000 is paying more?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is aware that with this budget we have

strengthened the surtax payable by the top income earners in the province. At approximately \$80,000 to \$85,000 of income, an additional tax of 10 per cent is applied. With this particular change, we have attempted to increase the fairness and equity in the tax system.

But I think there is something else that has to be said, that the honourable member, in changing from his questions on sales tax to the tax payable under the personal income tax, has adjusted the emphasis somewhat. I would be the last to try to convince the honourable member or anyone else in the House that there are not additional revenues paid because of the budget. For the sales tax alone, even though it is the sixth highest in Canada, this fiscal year there will be additional revenue of \$730 million. Because of the adjustments in personal income tax year over year, the revenue will, in fact, drop by about \$250 million.

These are judgements the honourable member would not have made, but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that as far as this government is concerned, the policy is directed towards achieving as much fairness and equity as is possible.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions for the Minister of Health. The minister will be aware of her answers in the House yesterday in which she said how concerned she was with the nursing shortage though she had no solutions to the problem.

I have in my hand a letter signed by Martin Barkin, MD, BScMed, MA, FRCSC, who is the Deputy Minister of Health. It is a letter that was sent to hospitals throughout the province, dated April 21, 1988. This is a letter in which Dr. Barkin reads the riot act to the hospitals in terms of their future funding.

He says, "Without intending to limit the scope of any plan, we expect that it will address cost reduction objectives through labour productivity improvements and other efficiency increases, staff hiring curtailments"—I repeat—"staff hiring curtailments, purchasing and supply consumption controls and, on a contingency basis if necessary, service realignments."

This letter is a bombshell dumped on the hospitals by the Deputy Minister of Health, telling them they are going to have to stop hiring people and are going to have to change their services. How can the minister stand in the House and say she is serious about dealing with a nursing shortage when her own deputy minister is telling hospitals they have to curtail the staff in their own institutions?

1350

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the Leader of the Opposition and every member in this House will realize it is extremely important that we have predictability in budgeting in this province. We are determined to assist hospitals to make sure that they deliver essential services and that they meet their approved budgets within the province.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister did not answer the question. She cannot stand on her feet on one day and say how troubled she is by the staff shortage problem in our hospitals and how worried she is that hospitals are closing beds, and have her deputy minister, just as she is standing on her feet, say to the hospitals that it is time they started firing people and realigning services and time they stopped hiring people. She cannot have it both ways. She is giving a completely mixed message to the people of this province with respect to health care.

I would like to ask the minister, how does she expect to solve the nursing shortage when her own deputy minister is telling hospitals they have to stop hiring people?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We believe manpower planning for hospitals is extremely important. As well, I believe that the hospitals will be able to respond to the assistance being offered by the ministry and that the reviews of the 22 hospitals with deficits will give us the answers to the chronic deficit problem. The majority of hospitals in this province provide high-quality care with a level of fiscal responsibility that I think should be applauded and emulated.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will be aware of the recent study that was done for the Ontario Nurses' Association by Mr. Goldfarb. I think it is fair to say that Mr. Goldfarb is someone not unknown to the minister or indeed to other members of her party.

One of the things Mr. Goldfarb says in the survey that he did for the ONA is: "Lack of adequate staff ranks highly as a reason for the nursing shortage. This would indicate the situation is likely to get worse without attention to the other issues that need to be addressed to encourage nurses to stay and to improve attitudes within the profession."

I come back to the fundamental question. We have been asking questions in this House for several months now on the question of a nursing shortage, on the question of staff shortages throughout our hospitals and the fact that beds are being closed, waiting lists are being closed and admissions are being closed in some hospitals. Can the minister confirm that these shortages are

no accident and that it would appear, from what Dr. Barkin is saying, that we can expect further shortages, not as an accident but now as a matter of direct government policy in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Quite to the contrary: I think it is very reasonable for us to work with hospitals to make sure that their programs are delivered efficiently and that they have the staffing resources they require. We intend, and I intend, to work with the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower to address those issues that will allow the areas of hospitals that have had difficulty in attracting full-time nurses, such as the critical care units, the intensive care units, to attract the staff they need to offer those services.

However, on the area of hospital funding, I want to say that we expect that the review of the 22 hospitals will identify areas where we can help hospitals achieve their budget objectives and at the same time provide essential and important services to their communities.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier and it is related to the budget. As the Premier is aware, these particular notices are appearing in local newspapers relative to the anger some people want to pass on to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and to the Premier with respect to their feelings in regard to this budget. A lot of the anger has been centred and directed towards the Treasurer, but some of that anger obviously should be directed towards the Premier because he is the co-author of that document.

I wonder if the Premier will confirm for this House that the actual tax grab in this budget that has been tabled in this House is not a gross increase of \$1.3 billion in additional taxation, but in fact is an increase of \$1.8 billion? Will the Premier confirm that?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer will be happy to answer a question pertaining to the budget.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I cannot confirm that.

Mr. Brandt: I anticipated the Premier would probably refer the question and I thought the Treasurer would own up to the fact that the gross increase in this budget, which has been well publicized, is in the range of \$1.3 billion, but the Treasurer has very conveniently forgotten about well over \$450 million in pass-through transfers from the federal government, which impact at almost \$500 million on this budget.

Will the Treasurer simply confirm that without the federal money which is in his document—and I can give him the precise page if he wants to refer

to it—he in fact has a grossed-up number in this budget in terms of an increase of \$1.8 billion? It is a very simple question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the member is aware that the federal tax reform has had a substantial impact on all the taxpayers of Canada, but the emphasis has been on the taxpayers and the corporations in Ontario. A number of changes have come from the federal government and, in each instance, we have tried to parallel the tax reform base changes. These occur both in the personal income tax and in the corporation income tax. In the case of the corporation income tax, the change in the capital cost allowance has interfered with our ability to compete with Americans, and on that basis we have a number of additional programs to assist our industries in that regard.

But if the honourable member is talking about some sort of hidden transfers, I really do not know what he is talking about. He may be referring to a speedup in the money that is owing to us in Ontario from the personal income tax. As the honourable member knows, it is collected in Ottawa, and when it is collected it is provincial money. Ever since I was elected, I have been urging the Minister of Finance to see that the province's money is remitted without delay. In order to make them as nearly neutral as possible from the federal aspect, the Minister of Finance has speeded up those transfers, and that was announced in the Legislature on at least two occasions when we were talking about the tax reform white paper, which is now just about a year old.

Mr. Brandt: My final supplementary is to refer the Treasurer to page 20 of his budget document, which does outline very clearly the federal transfer money. As I have indicated to the Treasurer, had that money not come through in additional revenue to his ministry, the gross increases that he has incorporated in this budget year would effectively be \$1.8 billion. I would like the Treasurer, when he has an opportunity to review those figures, to confirm that with the House.

But if I may take another question from the budget, in the light of the fact that over the past four years the Treasurer's increases have averaged about 10 per cent annually, which is about 40 per cent over the four budgets he has brought in, would he indicate to this House whether or not that is the largest increase over those four years of any provincial government in the entire country?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is concerned that we may be spending

too much on programs which his colleagues have been urging we spend more money on. He would perhaps feel more comfortable and sleep more soundly in his bed at night if he were to remember the facts that were presented in the budget: that we in Ontario are paying, on a per capita basis, at a level about sixth out of the 10 provinces; and that we are not overspending on these programs, and many sensible people indicate that they feel we should be spending more on hospitals, more on schools, more on roads, more even on the environment than we are. On that basis, we think we have struck a very good balance, accomplishing fairness and equity in the province.

Mr. Brandt: The Treasurer constantly refers to the fact that Ontario is sixth on a per capita basis. What he fails to mention—and he has mentioned this figure in the House on a number of occasions—is that he is quickly losing his grip on the fact that this province had a much lower per capita spending record when he came to power, and it has been escalating and accelerating at a rapid rate as a result of his budget. That is an absolute fact.

By way of question to the Treasurer, I want to say to him that not all that many years ago this province had the lowest per capita spending record, and he has absolutely destroyed that with his—

Mr. Speaker: You are sure you have a question?

Mr. Brandt: I do.

Mr. Speaker: Please place your question.

1400

Mr. Brandt: Recognizing that 90 per cent of all new jobs are created by small business, there was a survey taken in April 1987 indicating that 50 per cent of them felt that the major problem to their survival was provincial taxes. Recognizing that 90 per cent of new jobs are created by that sector of our economy, does the Treasurer have any concern that his budget is going to affect small business, which creates most of the jobs in this province?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Speaking to the preamble from the honourable leader, I would say that aside from the transcendental leadership of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the fact that the former government had underfunded our schools and our hospitals is the reason the member is over there and we are over here.

I think that sensible taxpayers in this province are in support of this budget in so far as it allocates more adequate funding to our hospitals, our schools, our roads and our housing pro-

grams. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Dealing with the specific matter raised by the honourable member, a careful reading of the budget would bring to his attention the fact that this budget eliminated capital tax for small business doing \$1 million worth of business or less. We believe that is a stimulus to the growth of small business, and in fact it is generally recognized as such.

Mr. Brandt: I will tell the Treasurer how well small business recognizes the growth stimulus that he has put in his budget. In February 1988 the same organization, taking a poll of small business some few months later, determined that 60 per cent of its members were now concerned about the kind of tax increases that were being brought in by his government.

Does he not share the concern that the very engine of growth in this province, namely the small businesses that create 90 per cent of the jobs, are going to be adversely affected by the budget that he has tabled in this House?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think it is interesting that the honourable member would indicate the concern of small business in February, because that is about the time that the federal budget came down, which in fact over two years removed an additional \$1.6 billion from Ontario.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Even in the gas tax situation, the federal government put one cent per litre on in January and another 1.1 cents in April. It really means the federal gas tax has gone from about five cents to 10 cents in the last four years. It is even higher than our provincial tax, which some people think is unnecessarily high. I do not agree with them in that.

Mr. Brandt: While the federal tax went up five cents, as the Treasurer points out in some four or five years, the leaded gas tax in his budget went up four cents in one budget in one year. That is a statement of fact.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Brandt: This is the largest tax grab in the history of this province. If businesses come forward indicating that his budget is going to create a survival problem for them, is the Treasurer prepared to look at some realistic rollback of some of the tax increases he has incorporated in his budget?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member, I know, is a fair man and he is the sort of person who would read the budget carefully. He would know that at the same time we removed totally the capital tax from small business, we allocated specific funds to assist small businesses in research and development—that was an additional \$45 million—and also, beginning next January 1, a 15 per cent stimulus to capital expenditure, which is going to not only increase the abilities of our small businesses to compete but also make more jobs. That is the expressed policy and the aim of this government, and we feel that it can be fairly achieved by those initiatives.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Allen: To the Minister of Education: Hard-to-serve children who are bright but have multiple learning disabilities are being victimized in our education system because of the rigid, unbending attitude of his ministry as to what constitutes hard-to-serve.

For example, Robbie Thompson in East York had his school board's refusal to recognize him as hard-to-serve overturned twice by government review boards. But now that his board accepts that he is hard-to-serve, the minister has rejected that on a technicality. The Supreme Court of Ontario recently judged that he was wrong in this case and now he plans to fight Robbie Thompson in the Supreme Court of Canada.

Why is the minister laying such a heavy hand on these kids? Will he not now withdraw his appeal and get on with giving these special children the appropriate education they deserve under the act?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to indicate to the member that I do share his concern relative to the needs of hard-to-serve children in this province. As the member points out, recently the courts did uphold a decision made in the Robbie Thompson case relative to the fact that the board did have the power and the jurisdiction to do what it did. But after having reviewed the case with solicitors from within my ministry, we clearly had some ongoing concerns and, as a result, we have filed an appeal.

Mr. Allen: There have been ongoing concerns, certainly. If the minister has them, he needs to look at his own officials because his ministry from the very beginning has treated the hard-to-serve provisions in Bill 82 in an incredibly narrow fashion. In fact, no child has ever been found hard-to-serve under Bill 82's provisions by his officials, which action specialists all

across the province have said is not only mistaken but probably even perverse.

The minister has major amendments in the works with respect to Bill 82. Why does he not go the less costly and more humane route of accepting the Ontario court decision and fixing the bill and the amendments? Or is he telling us by his court case that he is going to keep on building his Berlin Wall, complete with minefields, around the hard-to-serve provisions to keep these kids out?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As the member indicates, we do indeed have amendments currently under consideration relative to Bill 82. It would be my hope that we could introduce some of those amendments either before the end of this session or early in the next. But relative to the specifics of the Robbie Thompson case, the matter is under appeal before the courts, and I do not believe that it is appropriate for me to comment beyond that.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: I had hoped that I would not have to ask this question because we were hoping that the Minister of Labour would come in the House this afternoon with a statement that he had resolved this problem.

Mr. Speaker: Question to which minister?

Mrs. Marland: My question is to the Minister of Labour. Another day has passed and this minister is still content to sit back in his chauffeur-driven car while thousands of disabled people are trapped in their homes. Yesterday the minister, in his smug approach to this issue, said that I did not have any idea what collective bargaining is all about. I can assure the minister that I have a very clear idea of what disabled persons' difficulties are all about.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mrs. Marland: Since obviously this minister does not care about the disabled as long as he can pull off a negotiated settlement to boost his profile as the new labour guru, when is this minister going to do the humane thing and end this strike?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I hope the member for Mississauga South did not get the wrong impression yesterday from my comments. The thing I think I really resent is the suggestion in the tone and tenor of her question that she is the only person in this House who has any care or concern for the disabled community.

I think every one of us in this place would like to see a resolution of this dispute. I think every one of us in this House has a very deep concern

that there are disabled people within Metropolitan Toronto who perhaps are not getting to work or perhaps are not taking part in events that they normally take part in.

The fact is that in this sort of circumstance, perhaps as the member for Mississauga South suggests it would be very easy to say we will just end it, but in collective bargaining the best solution is a solution that the parties themselves negotiate and settle upon.

Mrs. Marland: If any one of the Liberal government members felt about this issue as I do, he would do what I am going to do shortly in this House, which is introduce a private bill to legislate the end of this strike.

At 12:30 p.m. today, I spoke to Mrs. Beryl Potter, who is the president of the Ontario Action Awareness Association, and she is quite discouraged. She indicated to me that it did not look as though the negotiations were going very well at all. In fact, she does not think the negotiations are going anywhere at this time.

1410

In order to ensure that the disabled community is not threatened in the future again with similar strike action, will this minister show his compassion and deem Wheel-Trans to be an essential service, something which Mrs. Beryl Potter and the rest of the disabled community have been calling for since the last strike two years ago.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Once again, I simply point out to the member for Mississauga South that her compassion and her concern about disabled people who are being inconvenienced by this strike is shared by every other member in this House. I am glad that she has taken the opportunity to meet with Beryl Potter. I, too, have had an opportunity to meet and have heard her comments on the tenor of the negotiations, on her concern for the disabled community and on her gratitude that my colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has provided assistance to disabled people to ensure that the strike is not as disruptive as it might otherwise have been. I have also heard from employers who have made commitments to make sure that their workers who are disabled are being helped to get to work.

No one wants this strike to go on, but the fact is that if collective bargaining is going to work in this province, we are going to have a system which allows parties to reach a reasonable resolution.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I think it is now

widely accepted that tourism is a truly major industry in this province. It is also accepted that this is an industry which affects all parts of the province, not just a few specialized resorts. There is real concern that this vital industry be managed in as systematic a way as possible with both short- and long-term plans. What is the minister doing to ensure that tourism in Ontario develops in a co-ordinated fashion?

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I would like to thank the member for Peterborough for his question because, whether the opposition believes so or not, it is a very important question. The opposition, or some of the opposition members, should be aware that tourism generated in Ontario last year close to \$9.3 billion, provided approximately 400,000 jobs and generated close to \$1 billion in tax revenues. At the present time, the previous minister and myself have been working along with the industry on a tourism strategy for the province. It is hoped that this will be coming forward very shortly.

Mr. Adams: I think the minister knows from personal experience that eastern and central Ontario feel neglected in various ways in this province. Tourism is a pillar of the economy of those regions. What is being done and what can be done to fully develop the tourism potential of eastern and central Ontario?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, all the members of the Legislature will be very pleased to know that eastern Ontario, as far as tourism is regarded, is not being left alone at all. There are a lot of great things happening. I can tell members that with our Destinations East program for festivals and events we are attracting a lot of tourists to the east. I can also tell them that the assistance we are giving to the tourism industry in the way of loans has helped greatly. We are also doing quite a bit to make sure that eastern Ontario is advertised in many of our magazines and a lot of the newspaper advertising that is going on. We see great things happening for eastern Ontario as far as tourism is related.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are quite a number of other members who would like to ask questions and to be heard.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question of the Minister of Education. The minister will be aware that last year his ministry gave the Board of Education for the City of Windsor \$38,000 in

capital grants; this year he gave us zip. This past weekend I visited the William Hands Secondary School and looked at its roof, which to replace is \$620,000. There are holes in the roof. The inside of the school is deteriorating because that roof cannot be repaired without capital grants from his ministry.

When is his ministry going to recognize that there are school boards in this province that may not have growth situations but still have capital requirements for renovations and maintaining their capital stock, which is ageing and deteriorating? When is he going to properly address that issue, instead of constantly ignoring boards like the Windsor board of education?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As the member knows, this year's capital allocation was primarily directed to the needs of growth boards. I think he would also recognize that the great difficulty we have in dealing with the many, many capital requests we receive is making a judgement as to whether most of the money should be directed to upgrading facilities that currently exist or whether most of the money should be directed to providing accommodation for students who will be showing up next September with no place to go.

I do share his concern, however, relative to the needs of those areas without growth. I do share his concerns relative to the needs to upgrade existing capital stocks. I will say that under emergency situations, where circumstances warrant, the ministry is in a position to be able to respond. I would be happy to have the regional office in the southwestern area report to me on the situation at that school.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister might want to talk to his regional office, because the regional office recommended this. They recommended it last year too, but the head office ignores it.

I would like to ask the minister about another capital situation in our area. In Essex county, he will understand that we went through a very difficult time and a negotiated settlement came about where General Amherst District High School shared with the Catholic school board in order to have, not a new high school but shared facilities in Amherstburg.

Does the minister not understand that while the ownership of this high school remains with the public school board, his ministry allocated capital grants to the separate school board and nothing to the public school board and that, as a result, this agreement for shared facilities is now in jeopardy and he has accelerated and increased the antagonism that exists in that community

with the phasing in of Bill 30? Will he review that situation immediately?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Frankly, I have to say to the member that I think his information, or at least his basic premise, is fundamentally incorrect relative to the capital allocation. The member knows full well that in many circumstances local boards from their own revenue sources do from time to time provide funds for the upkeep, the renovation and the maintenance of facilities.

If the member truly believes that because the separate board within a shared facility chooses to put in new carpet and paints its walls out of current funds, therefore this has become an issue relative to the capital funding or to Bill 30, I think he is wrong.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: My question is also to the Minister of Education and it also deals with the inconsistencies around capital funding and the minister's approach in matters relative to Bill 30. Yesterday in this House, we learned of the minister's reversal in policy with respect to his ministry's role, and his as the minister, in school space negotiations. In light of the fact he has now intervened in the Metro board negotiations, will he apply the same rules to Hamilton and build the students of Hamilton a new school?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Again the member operates under what I believe to be a complete misunderstanding of the process relative to Bill 30. He knows full well that boards of education throughout this province are required to strike joint negotiating committees in an attempt to resolve the utilization of surplus space within the public school system.

1420

In this case, the board, during the course of its negotiation, as has virtually every other board in this province, approached the ministry, either through the regional office—in this case it was a direct approach—relative to making a determination as to what its long-term needs would be. It requested that we participate at the joint negotiation session in an attempt to bring about not just a short-term solution for September 1988 but rather a solution that would serve the needs of the eight school boards involved in these negotiations long into the future.

Frankly, I think those boards showed great leadership. They showed a tremendous willingness to come to terms on a long-standing basis with a very difficult situation. I was delighted to accede to their requests and participate with them.

Mr. Jackson: The minister indicates that there were elements of leadership in Metropolitan Toronto. I do not know what he is trying to say was the attitude of the school boards in the Hamilton-Wentworth situation when they essentially became the guinea-pigs for this legislation. He says he was asked to get involved in this process. If any boards in the Hamilton-Wentworth area were to approach him now with a genuine interest and with a rational plan for a long-term proposal to resolve the school space negotiations and their needs, does he not agree that it would be incumbent upon him to reopen the discussions on Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I think I have indicated to the member clearly the differences in the situation.

Mr. Jackson: You have two sets of rules.

Hon. Mr. Ward: There is only one set of rules. The joint committee negotiations were complete in the Hamilton-Wentworth community among the three boards. The three boards asked for and agreed to the assignment of a mediator in that circumstance. When mediation failed, an arbitrator was appointed, and the hearings were held as per the provisions of the act.

If the member is asking me if any board of education would come forward with a long-range, planned approach that showed clearly a complete willingness to deal with these issues in the long term, of course I would listen.

ROAD SAFETY

Ms. Collins: My question is for the Minister of Transportation. The minister is aware of the dangerous intersection of Highway 20 and King Street in my riding. He is also aware that this intersection has been the scene of numerous accidents involving trucks travelling on Highway 20 down the escarpment towards King Street. Recently this intersection was the scene of two fatal accidents, again involving transport trucks. Can the minister please tell the House what action his ministry is planning to take to improve safety at this location?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I would like to commend my colleague the member for Wentworth East on the manner, the energy and the aggressiveness with which she has pursued this very important safety matter. She brought it to my attention a very short while ago at a meeting in my office and another one yesterday. I am able to tell the member and this House today that our ministry will be working very quickly to install a very

large sign that will be directed particularly to the truckers who are heading down this very long road into that area. We will be installing an additional sign that will direct attention, particularly to motorists in general, which will give them—

Mr. Wiseman: Is that what you told her yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: If the members opposite are interested in saving lives, they will stop their interjections. It will flash in advance—

Mr. Jackson: Why can't she ask the minister? She is making all that extra money as his parliamentary assistant. Can't she walk across the hall?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: It will provide for flashing advance signs to give notice of change of the signalized intersection.

We will also be increasing truck inspection before they enter the grade, with particular emphasis on checking truck safety and braking systems. We will also be continuing to monitor the intersection with the local municipality, which has a role to play in outlining to the particular companies—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That is a thoroughly complete answer. Any further supplementary?

Ms. Collins: I want to thank the minister for responding so quickly to these concerns. It is unfortunate the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) is not interested in road safety in this province.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are a number of other questions I am sure could be asked in the next 17 minutes if—order. Supplementary?

Ms. Collins: Can the minister give some commitment as to when the short-term measures will be implemented and whether he is considering any longer-term initiatives?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: It may be that members opposite are not concerned with public safety, but I do appreciate the member's complimentary remarks.

Another meeting is taking place onsite today, and I can tell the member that the signage will be completed within the next two weeks.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Tonight, at a dinner in Etobicoke to which the minister has been invited, it will be announced that Etobicoke has been selected as

one of three cities across Canada to participate in a unique demonstration project for the delivery of mental health services.

This project is funded in part by the Department of National Health and Welfare and in part by the Canadian Mental Health Association. It provides an opportunity for the Etobicoke mental health services agency to show the way to other communities in Ontario.

The other two demonstration projects are going to be in Saskatchewan and in New Brunswick. Both of those provincial governments have promised funding to the community that has the demonstration project.

Can this minister commit herself to provide the same kind of support for the project that is going to take place in Etobicoke?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am very proud of the commitment this government has made to mental health, and particularly to community mental health. Since 1985, we have increased the budget by 70 per cent and further made a commitment to triple the allocation in the next three years.

Mr. Reville: The project in Etobicoke, like the projects in Prince Albert and Moncton, will demonstrate the important principles of personal empowerment and community capacity in the delivery of mental health services.

Those principles envisage a balancing of the delivery of mental health services so that the person with the mental health problem is at the centre, supported by a framework that would consist of the formal mental health care system, community agencies, families and friends groups and self-help groups.

Does the minister support those principles? If so, why will she not commit funding to this project in Etobicoke?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Our commitment to double community mental health funding over the next three years speaks to the commitment.

Further, we have asked Robert Graham to bring forward a model for the establishment of comprehensive community mental health programming. I expect to have Mr. Graham's committee report in the very near future and I hope to have a statement in this House.

CONGRATULATORY SCROLLS

Hon. Mr. Patten: In response to a previous question, I think this is something that affects and is of interest to all members. It deals with the official documents which are sent to constituents on behalf of the province.

The members will know that for the past 20 years there has been essentially one style and one

format. That has now changed. These are for the purposes of congratulatory messages for birthdays, weddings and other special events.

As of this week, there is a new format in terms of framing and wording. As well as being more aesthetically pleasing, the documents will be far easier to handle, especially for older recipients. The new folders are lighter in weight and have a more modern style of print. There will be six different styles so that members can choose from these.

Members will be pleased to hear they can sign the scroll at the request of the recipient, which was one of the questions that was asked of me, and that the new folder can accommodate a business card or letter on behalf of the members. In fact, if the members are interested in these scrolls, they will be able to preview them downstairs, outside the dining hall, where they will be on display for the remainder of the week.

1430

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Will the minister please tell the House if any members besides the Premier (Mr. Peterson) had input into the decision to go this route and change the plaques? It is my understanding, in checking with the ministry, that the nursing homes complained about the dusting. Also, there was some factor about the cost; it was starting to cost too much. Since the ministry has now moved to 80th birthdays and 40th anniversaries, it would seem to me the cost has increased.

The plaques are certainly not nearly as nice as they were in the past. The only signature that appears is the Premier's. If the plaques are sent from the minister's office, how does a member have the opportunity to have a card inserted?

Hon. Mr. Patten: Many of these requests, as the member will know, come by way of constituency offices or by way of members. In fact, there were complaints from seniors' residences about the old format, that it was very bulky and causing damage. The format now provides for the MPP's card or for a letter, and to be signed if the recipient makes that request.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Parry Sound.

Mr. Eves: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether I can follow that act or not. I guess the plaques were too difficult to dust. That is the response we got back from the ministry.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. The majority of hospitals do not plan

their deficits. I tried to emphasize that point yesterday, but I will try to make myself perfectly clear. In very simple words, due to uncontrollable circumstances, whether it be unusually high demand or exceptional expenditures, these hospitals either have to operate with a deficit or cut services, cut beds, stop admitting patients.

Hospitals in high-growth areas view the minister's 2.5 per cent increase, which she gave them for growth, as a joke. For example, York Centre's projected growth this year is eight per cent to 10 per cent. Will the minister pick up the deficits of hospitals with unplanned deficits or not, yes or no?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member knows, the goal of the Ministry of Health is to provide the highest quality of service with the greatest possible efficiency in our hospitals. We have undertaken a review of some 22 hospitals that have recurring deficits to find the root problems and help them resolve those so that we can have predictability in hospital budgeting.

Mr. Eves: The minister cannot have it both ways. Either she picks up the unplanned deficits of the hospitals or she should indicate the services these hospitals should cut. It is her responsibility.

My question to the minister is very simple: Which services is she telling hospitals to cut? Should they close beds? Should they lay off staff? Should they cut programs? Should they stop admitting patients? If so, which patients? Which is it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is important for members of this Legislature to realize that from 1984-85 to 1988-89, hospital budget increases have been 39 per cent. We recognize that there are adequate resources within this sector, what we are attempting to do is make sure that they are fairly funded. I believe the reviews will go a long way to pointing out what those difficulties are and allow us to give hospitals the adequate resources they require to deliver services their communities need.

ONTARIO VETERINARY COLLEGE

Mr. Ferraro: I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I am sure the members of the third party will not like this question. A few years ago, the Ontario Veterinary College lost its full accreditation as the result of a ruling of the American Veterinary Medical Association. They lost this full accreditation precisely because the government of the day did not provide enough funds. I remind the House and the minister that this 126-year-old

institution, renowned throughout the world, is the alma mater for 60 per cent of all the veterinarians in Canada. Everyone should know that this week the Ontario Veterinary College regained full accreditation.

My question, in two parts, to the minister is: Can he advise the House and the people of Ontario whether this accreditation is permanent or will it have to be reviewed? Second, what is he doing to ensure that this great institution, part of the University of Guelph, will never get into the sort of—

Mr. Speaker: Order; minister.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: Restoring full accreditation to the Ontario Veterinary College is yet another example of the kind of expenditure of taxpayers' dollars that this government has had to make in order to compensate for the neglect of the educational system by the previous administration. Had the Tory government injected the funds where they were needed back at the time when they were needed, the Ontario Veterinary College would never have lost its full accreditation.

This government has undertaken two major developments. First, in 1986, we provided enhanced funding of \$3.6 million to allow the farm animal health program to provide undergraduates with an opportunity to gain field experience between the second and third year. Second, my ministry, in conjunction with the Ministry of Government Services, is also in the process of constructing a \$5.4-million world-class animal health research centre at—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order; new question.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. I think at some point you are going to have to look at the questions the Liberal Party is asking during question period. There is a standing rule that says the questions are supposed to be of urgent public importance. If the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) wants to make a statement, it should not be set up by one of his own back-benchers. There is a time to do that.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the assistance of—
Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Ferraro: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: On that point of order?

Mr. Ferraro: I think, Mr. Speaker, if you are going to entertain that point of order, you should entertain mine. I would only ask for equal treatment. If we cannot ask a question we do not know the answer to, then they should not be able to.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to thank the member for—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Well, we will just wait once again, if you want to waste the time.

Order. I would like to thank the members for their assistance in organizing the question period. However, I am trying to follow the pattern set out in the standing orders set by these members. I feel my main job in the chair is to make certain that as many members as possible have the opportunity to ask questions and to get responses.

CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Correctional Services. The president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the ministry's own figures variously estimate that between 15 and 20 per cent of inmates in Ontario's correctional institutions, not treatment centres, are in need of psychological treatment but are not receiving it. This works out to approximately 6,500 inmates.

Unfortunately, even with the proposed new treatment beds projected at Vanier, Millbrook and the Sault, only a mere 7.6 per cent of all treatable inmates will be able to receive treatment.

My question to the minister is this: What does the minister plan to do with the remaining 92.4 per cent, or over 6,000 inmates under the care of the ministry, who are in need of treatment; and will it hire new psychiatrists and psychologists to treat the mentally disturbed inmates languishing in Ontario's prisons?

1440

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I really welcome that question because treatment and care of our inmates is high on my agenda and we have been increasing the professional staff in all our treatment centres. In the women's prison, Vanier Centre for Women in Brampton, we have just completed the construction of one of the cottages into a treatment centre for women. We are just completing our staff hiring for that centre. In all the different centres across Ontario, we are

increasing our treatment and spending up to \$3.6 million this year on the treatment of Ontario offenders.

Mr. Farnan: Despite what the minister says, and we appreciate any expansion, let me give an example of Robert Colakoglu, who has been, for the past four months, in the Cambridge detention centre. Robert has been variously diagnosed as suffering from chronic schizophrenia at the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, the Homewood Sanitarium, the London Psychiatric Hospital and the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre.

Just over five weeks ago, at the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital, his pre-trial assessment recommended the following—I would like the minister to listen to this—"We recommend he serve his sentence at St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital forensic service so that he is further ahead by receiving treatment at the earliest possible time while his motivation is still high."

Mr. Speaker: What would the question be?

Mr. Farnan: That was over five weeks ago. Robert Colakoglu—this is important, Mr. Speaker—is still in the centre.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure it is very important. Would you place your supplementary question?

Mr. Farnan: Taking the case of Robert Colakoglu, who has been subjected to a prolonged period of solitary confinement, in this case where the man's hand was broken and it took four days before he was brought to the hospital for treatment, what will the minister do—

Mr. Speaker: Are you sure this is a question?

Mr. Farnan: —about Robert Colakoglu and the 6,000 others like him who are in need of psychiatric help and who are languishing in institutions without treatment?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I would be quite happy to look into that individual case the member brings to my attention, but also I would like to tell the member that in Burtch Correctional Centre, just south of Brantford, we are just finishing off another treatment-centre area so that we will be able to provide better service for the people of southwestern Ontario.

PETITIONS

Mr. Harris: I had a petition outside today:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"We congratulate the Treasurer of Ontario, Bob Nixon, for his recent budget and for his careful scrutiny of expenditures and his concern for the average taxpayer of this province."

Mr. Speaker, it is signed by—oh, I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, nobody would sign it. I cannot table it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Perhaps the member for Nippissing will look a little more closely at the rules for petitions.

Mr. Harris: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker. I will have to withdraw it.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have three petitions and I can assure you they are all legitimate.

They are each opposed to Sunday shopping or the extension of Sunday shopping in the province.

One is by 54 members of the Women's Missionary and Service Commission of the Mennonite Church in Petersburg, one is by 55 adherents to Calvary Memorial Church in Kitchener and one is by 103 members of the First Christian Reformed Church in Kitchener.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Velshi: I have a petition signed by about 21 women from the Voice of Women. It is a petition against the Meech Lake accord:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"Canadians must ensure that women's equality rights are clearly written and well protected in our Constitution.

"The risks we see in the proposed Meech Lake accord should and must be removed before ratification. For women, any risk is too much risk.

"We reject any proposal for companion resolutions to 'fix it up later,' because we cannot trust all provinces not to exercise veto.

"The accord must be revised to read that nothing in it will abrogate or derogate from any of the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

I have signed this petition.

Mr. Speaker: There are about 14 private conversations going on at the same time. I feel it is not necessary.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Daigeler: I have the pleasure to introduce a petition signed by 182 residents of my riding and of the Ottawa-Carleton area. It is addressed:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

I have signed this petition.

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson wants world-class Sunday shopping, but the people of Ontario do not, we request that consideration be given to the views of 83 persons from different parts of Ontario who have signed a petition...."

Mrs. Marland: I have a second petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, which says in part:

"On the recommendation of its Outreach Committee, and after consideration, the official board of Christ Church United"—at 1700 Mazo Crescent, Mississauga—"passed the following resolution:

"That the official board on behalf of the congregation of Christ Church United advise the province of Ontario represented by the Premier ...that we are opposed to Sunday retailing and in favour of retaining the present legislation, which we feel should not be eroded."

It gives me pleasure to add my signature to that petition.

ABORTION

Mr. Kozyra: I have a petition from a group of Cochrane parishioners:

"We, the undersigned, parishioners of Ste-Angèle de Merici, Frederickhouse, Ontario, request that the provincial government initiate financial assistance and moral support programs for future mothers with the objective of encouraging them to keep their babies and not undergo an abortion."

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ACT

Mrs. Marland moved first reading of Bill 127, An Act respecting the Labour Disputes between All-Way Transportation Corporation (Wheel-Trans Division) and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union.

Motion agreed to.

1450

Mrs. Marland: The purpose of this bill is to end the labour disputes involving All-Way Transportation Corp., Wheel-Trans division, and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union. The bill provides for the immediate return to work by the employees and the immediate startup of operation by the employer. Under this bill, the dispute is to be settled by compulsory arbitration.

In view of the urgency of this matter of transportation for the disabled, I request unanimous consent of this House that it will have second reading of this bill today.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Introduction of bills.

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I felt that we did receive unanimous consent of this House.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, I am sorry. I guess I was not listening carefully enough. What is your request?

Mrs. Marland: My request was for all-party consent in this House, and I heard some members of the Liberal government perhaps declining. I was not clear and I wondered if you could clarify it.

Mr. Speaker: What is the request?

Mrs. Marland: My request is for second reading of this bill. I wondered if the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston)—

Mr. Speaker: In other words, you are asking unanimous consent that this bill go to second reading before it is printed. Is that what you are asking?

Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: No. I am sorry. There is not unanimous consent.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Introduction of bills. Any other bills? Have you another bill?

Mrs. Marland: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Do I understand that the Liberal government is opposed to this bill?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did not understand originally what the member was requesting and I admitted I was not listening carefully. You repeated it, and I informed you of the view of the House that there was not unanimous consent. I hope that you heard that.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I would like to speak to that point, just so that the record might be very clear. On behalf of my colleagues, I certainly cannot deal with a bill that I have not even seen. I think my honourable friends would want to know that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, just on a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, a different point of order.

Mr. Pope: I want to speak to that point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Pope: Speaking to that point of order, Mr. Speaker: The government House leader rose to clarify the record. He knows full well what the content of the bill is and the issue. The fact of the matter is that this Liberal government does not want to help the people who are dependent on that service.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to what to me has been a point of view by the members who have spoken.

On a new point of order, the member for Windsor-Riverside.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, it is on a slightly different point of order. Perhaps if the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) had wanted members of the other parties to take this matter seriously, she might have considered circulating her bill to the other two parties ahead of time so we could take a look at it.

Mr. Speaker: On that point of order, the member for Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The member for Mississauga South certainly indicated her intention during question period today. The bill she has tabled is a replica of a previous bill that all members will be very well acquainted with. There was no intent to surprise anybody and she simply asked for unanimous consent, as is asked many times by the government during emergency situations. They did not agree to it, and we accept that. They do not think it is a problem, and we do.

Mr. Speaker: I have been listening carefully. The matter of unanimous consent for second reading had been dealt with previously, even though the member just brought it up once again. The supposed point of order by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) was

certainly a good point of view and, I suppose, a suggestion for other members in the future.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OTTAWA-CARLETON FRENCH-LANGUAGE SCHOOL BOARD ACT

LOI SUR LE CONSEIL SCOLAIRE DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

Hon. Mr. Ward moved second reading of Bill 109, An Act to establish a French-language School Board for the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

L'hon. M. Ward propose la deuxième lecture du projet de loi 109, Loi portant création d'un Conseil scolaire de langue française pour la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am delighted to rise today and move second reading of Bill 109, An Act to establish a French-language School Board for The Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

Monsieur le Président, en proposant aujourd'hui la deuxième lecture du projet de loi 109, je tiens à rendre hommage de façon particulière à ceux et celles qui se sont consacrés à la création d'un conseil scolaire de langue française dans Ottawa-Carleton. Depuis près d'une génération, en effet, ils ont oeuvré sans relâche. Leur ténacité, leur acharnement et leur dévouement sont autant de preuves du feu sacré qui les animait. Leurs efforts conjugués témoignent d'un courage digne de notre estime.

Taken in its historical context, the creation of a French-language school board represents the culmination of a long series of events, dating back to pre-Confederation when the first school established in Upper Canada was l'Assomption de détroit, now the city of Windsor.

From the late 1880s until 1960 the use of French in public and separate schools was severely restricted by government policy. Regulation 17—l'infâme règlement 17, as it is referred to by all Franco-Ontarians—passed in June 1912, banned the use of the French language in schools, except in the first year if children did not know English. This regulation was put in abeyance in 1927 and eventually repealed in 1944.

However, severe limitations on the use of French as a language of instruction continued to exist at the secondary level until 1968, when legislation was enacted to allow for the establishment of French-language secondary schools in Ontario. Members will recall, as I am sure my honourable colleague the member for Ottawa East (Mr. Grandmaître) does, that a French-

language school board for Ottawa-Carleton was first proposed by the Mayo commission in 1974.

Although the government of the day failed to act on that report, and with all due respect to those who devoted time and energy in keeping the issue alive, other events have since that time paved the way to the recognition of the rights of francophones in this province to school governance. The enactment of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in our Canadian Constitution in 1982 and the 1984 decision rendered by the Ontario Court of Appeal form, without a doubt, the basis of the educational rights held by the linguistic minority of our province, the rights of the Franco-Ontarians to manage and control their schools and classes.

This government has demonstrated its commitment to the educational rights of Ontario's francophone minority. Bill 75, passed in 1986, provided legislation to ensure those rights. It also set in motion the establishment of a French-language school board in the nation's capital through the creation of an advisory committee chaired by Albert Roy. The Roy report was released in January 1987. The course of action proposed since then by my ministry supports many recommendations contained in that report.

The legislation provides for: the creation of one French-language school board with two sectors, one Roman Catholic and one public, the board's composition's being a minimum of seven elected trustees per sector and additional trustees to be determined by a formula set out in the legislation; the duties and powers that are exclusive to each of the sectors and to the full board; the exclusive right of the new board to offer instruction to French-speaking pupils who desire and qualify for a French-language education; the transfer of staff working in or on behalf of French-language schools from the four existing boards to the new board or its sectors under the collective agreements or employment relationships currently in force; the transfer of school facilities currently occupied by the French-language pupils and the transfer of other assets from the four existing boards to the new board; and a mechanism for the resolution of disputes that arise during and after the implementation of the French-language school board.

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Another important aspect to this bill addresses the financial needs of the new French-language school board for Ottawa-Carleton. To all intents and purposes, members will realize that we are creating not only a new school board but a new structure within the Ontario school system.

For this reason, it was felt that providing special temporary grants was the best way of enabling the sectors of the new board to offer the same quality of education that is available to French-language students in Ottawa-Carleton today. As I have already stated in this Legislature, these temporary grants are to be provided only until such time as this government has adopted new funding measures following its review of the financing of elementary and secondary education in Ontario.

In summing up, I wish to emphasize that Bill 109 was born out of a long and constructive consultation process. With that spirit in mind, I genuinely believe that we have addressed in this landmark legislation the constitutional rights set out in section 23 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which deals with minority-language education, as well as in section 93 of the Constitution Act, which refers to religious education rights.

Finally, I am mindful, as I am sure all members of this Legislature are, of the relatively short time afforded to us if we are to witness fruition of the measure in time for the municipal and school elections of November 1988. Having said that, however, I want to emphasize the commitment I made to this House upon introducing this legislation a few weeks ago. Indeed, it is my hope that Bill 109 will be referred at the earliest possible time to a committee of the Legislature and that public hearings will be held in both Ottawa and Toronto.

In so doing, members of interested parties will have a chance of perfecting an already fine piece of legislation. Indeed, officials of my ministry are now incorporating several of the suggested changes brought forward by concerned groups with a view to clarifying the language of the bill.

Ce projet de loi historique répond de façon positive aux attentes longtemps exprimées de la communauté francophone d'Ottawa-Carleton. J'invite tous les députés à l'Assemblée à démontrer que l'Ontario entend reconnaître les droits de la minorité francophone sur le plan de l'enseignement, et ce, en appuyant avec moi ce projet de loi.

M. Daigeler: En tant que conseiller scolaire d'un conseil qui représente une grande partie des francophones de la région d'Ottawa-Carleton, cela me fait un grand plaisir d'appuyer avec enthousiasme le projet de loi soumis par le ministre. J'invite tous mes collègues à se joindre à moi dans ce projet historique, lequel restera projet, puisque même après son renvoi à un comité parlementaire, il restera des questions

posées, il restera des problèmes. C'est à nous tous de montrer de la générosité d'esprit, de la générosité de cœur pour aborder toutes les questions reliées à ce projet.

I invite all the members in this House to support this initiative. There will be questions that will remain after discussion in the committee. I invite all the partners in this enterprise to show an openness of spirit and heart to the ideas that lie behind this project of legislation for the recognition of the cultural identity and uniqueness of our francophone brothers and sisters in the Ottawa-Carleton area. I am pleased and proud of this project that the minister has introduced.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I do not think it really matters in this because we are in second reading debate and the member for Nepean (Mr. Daigeler) could have an opportunity to speak on second reading, but I think it is improper to use the response time to make a statement of his support for a piece of legislation, particularly through the second—I think it is of a minor nature but I just point it out in terms of what that response time should be used for. It should be used to respond to what the minister has said.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): With respect to the point of order that has just been brought to my attention by the member for Carleton, the standing orders indicate that there may be comments or questions. That comment may be favourable or unfavourable, I do believe.

L'hon. M. Grandmaitre: Madame la Présidente, je veux certainement indiquer mon appui du projet de loi 109, aujourd'hui. Je crois que c'est la grande fête pour les Franco-Ontariens et Franco-Ontariennes de célébrer la deuxième lecture du projet de loi 109.

Je fais cela pour plusieurs raisons. Je crois que les deux raisons les plus importantes seraient que je suis le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones et, en plus, le député d'Ottawa-Est, et ma municipalité représente à peu près le plus grand pourcentage de francophones dans l'Est de l'Ontario.

La présentation du projet de loi en deuxième lecture aujourd'hui reflète le travail qui a été fait depuis une dizaine d'années, et surtout au cours des trois dernières années, par le gouvernement de l'Ontario. Je me souviens de la présentation de cette loi, de la préparation de cette loi par le député de Renfrew-Nord (M. Conway); et aujourd'hui, le ministre de l'Éducation (M. Ward) vient d'apporter le glaçage sur le gâteau.

L'adoption de la Loi 75, il y a tout près de deux ans, constituait sans doute le premier fruit, la première étape de la création ou de l'adoption de la Loi 109. Je suis sûr que tous mes collègues vont appuyer le projet de loi 109, qui élimine, comme l'a si bien mentionné le ministre tantôt...

The Acting Speaker: Order. Time is up, the two-minute time.

M. Poirier: Madame la Présidente, également à titre de député de la circonscription de Prescott et Russell, dont une partie se trouve à l'intérieur des limites de la municipalité régionale d'Ottawa-Carleton, j'ai de la difficulté à vous décrire mon plaisir de voir la deuxième lecture du projet de loi 109 que propose le ministre de l'Éducation.

Évidemment, j'ai apprécié le contexte historique que mon collègue le ministre a bien voulu faire dans la présentation de la deuxième lecture. Les Franco-Ontariens et les Franco-Ontariennes se rappelleront le long cheminement qui leur a permis d'accéder à la gestion de leurs propres institutions scolaires, mais aussi, et comme l'a mentionné mon collègue le ministre délégué aux Affaires francophones, tout le travail qui a été fait depuis quelques années pour s'assurer que la population francophone de l'Ontario pourra contrôler ses ressources en matière d'éducation.

Il reste des choses à faire, mais quand même, nous avons fait un bon bout de chemin. Je tiens à féliciter mon collègue le ministre de l'Éducation et j'invite également tous mes collègues de l'Assemblée législative à appuyer activement ce projet de loi, dans l'espoir qu'à l'échelle de l'Ontario, dans un avenir rapproché, toute la population francophone pourra avoir accès à la gestion scolaire au sein d'un conseil scolaire homogène de langue française.

I hope that all my colleagues will see the great step forward of this legislation and I hope that they will support the initiative of the second reading of Bill 109 to make sure that the Franco-Ontarian community of Ottawa-Carleton can see that dream come true. I also hope that the other areas where francophones represent a significant number of the population can benefit from the governance of their own homogeneous French-language school board.

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Mr. Speaker: Are there any other comments? The member for Ottawa South. One minute, I believe.

Mr. McGuinty: I am very proud that the minister referred to this as landmark legislation. Prior to 1965, the francophone people of the

Ottawa area did not even have their own secondary schools. I think this landmark legislation is a logical extension to development beyond that point.

I think it is truly right and appropriate in that the French schools have particular needs with regard to books, busing, staff, program and students, and likewise appropriately should have their own school board. This legislation is the logical extension of the good development that has been under way since 1965. I am very proud to be a member of a government which is going to implement it.

M. R. F. Johnston: Je suis fier de prendre la parole et d'appuyer le projet de loi, mais j'ai aussi beaucoup de questions concernant son application. Cela fait certainement longtemps que nous attendons l'arrivée de ce projet de loi et la reconnaissance, enfin, des droits des Franco-Ontariens. C'est pour cette raison que notre parti, à cette étape de la procédure, veut appuyer le projet de loi. Mais peut-être que je pourrais mieux parler en anglais, et plus clairement, pour poser mes questions au ministre concernant le projet de loi.

It has been a long time coming, many decades. The consultation process, I agree with the minister, has been unique and very important. It is nice to see here the assistant deputy minister who did so much work on it for the ministry in terms of trying to bring this to reality.

I would say, however, that there are still some concerns I have about the congruence of the laws we now have around electoral reform and how they impact on Bill 109. It is my concerns around that which I would like to raise.

First, I would like to start with a question about the bill itself, which was raised by l'Association des enseignantes et enseignants franco-ontariens in a communiqué they put out just recently, in which M. Hallé, the president, a expliqué que l'appui que l'AEFO accordait au projet de loi était conditionnel à ce que la section catholique et la section publique du nouveau conseil disposent de ressources financières suffisantes pour maintenir la qualité des programmes et des services dont bénéficient présentement les élèves francophones de la région d'Ottawa-Carleton.

I think this is a very important point. He wants to make sure that in fact there will not be less money as a result of the changes here than there was before this bill was brought forward. The reason he has that concern, as the minister knows, is that it would appear that the amount of money the boards may get will be based on the enumeration that is being done. There are some

severe concerns about that enumeration: who will be identified, who will be left off and whether, in effect, the two existing boards will transfer sufficient funds to maintain the programs that have already been started through the generosity of those boards in the past.

I guess I would want to hear about that before we get to third reading of this bill, and perhaps even before we go out to committee, so that those people who are coming to speak to us at committee will have some idea of the government's guarantee on this, as to whether the government will guarantee that the new French boards will not have less money to deal with than is presently available in the Ottawa-Carleton area for programs.

The second consideration I would like to hear from the minister is something I just received about 20 minutes before we sat down today, so I am not exactly current on it, and my translation services here—the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) and I have not had a chance to go through it in detail.

It is a concern raised again by M. Marion, who is the president of the French boards of Ontario, l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario, concerning the revised Bill 76—which you may remember, Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on in this House—now known as Bill 125, projet de loi 125, and its potential implications for Bill 109. I am not clear whether the concerns raised by the AFCSO affect Bill 109 or not and I think it is really important to get some kind of clarification on that as well.

The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), I presume, has already received this reaction piece from the AFCSO. If not, I will send over a copy. I happen to have one. I am sorry, I did not realize when I was speaking to him earlier that he did not have it.

They raise a series of concerns which touch on the very constitutionality of Bill 125. The reason it has an implication for this bill we are now talking about is that it also deals with the whole enumeration question and the determination through enumeration of the number of representatives one will have on a school board.

The great concern that seems to be put forward in this position paper is that it is possible under this new enumeration that in fact there could be fewer representatives on French boards than were guaranteed under Bill 75, which has already been passed into legislation. If this were the case, of course, it would be running counter to our goals of l'épanouissement of the conseil scolaire français.

I want to raise with the minister the concerns from M. Marion about that and I would like to read one them into the record, if I might:

«Le gouvernement veut utiliser les données de recensement pour déterminer le nombre de conseillers scolaires dans les sections linguistiques des conseils scolaires. Ceci aura pour effet de diminuer le nombre actuel de conseillers dans les sections de langue française, alors que leur nombre est déjà un minimum avec lequel il est extrêmement difficile de travailler. Le nombre de conseillers scolaires francophones ne doit pas être inférieur à ce qui est prévu par la Loi 75.»

That is the concern I was just raising in English. I want to ask the minister, does that affect only French sections of other boards or is my reading of Bill 109 correct, that in fact it could easily affect the numbers of people who would represent the French-speaking electors on the new Ottawa-Carleton French boards?

If it does affect them, I would say to the minister that perhaps we have a fair amount of work to do to try to correct that problem, because in his compendium which goes along with the bill, I note there is a guarantee of a minimum of seven elected trustees per sector. In trying to determine that in the bill, I found in going through it that I was a little confused as to whether there was this final guarantee or whether, in fact, we have a possibility that we may see fewer representatives than that on the boards or a number inappropriate to the actual population that should be supporting this bill.

In this piece that is brought forward by the AFCSO, I would also talk about the very serious problems of the enumeration. They try to lay out for the ministry the fact that there are major differences between the English on the enumeration and the French and, as a result, there are many people from the French community who may not fill this out correctly and may not understand that two things will be affected: the amount of money that will be going to the school board and the number of representatives that school board may get. If they do not fill it out correctly, they will discover that in point of fact they have not been able to elect the kind of school board that we hope will be the case coming out of Bill 109.

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I would just say to the minister that I have raised in this House in the past the problem of this whole package of bills and the fact that they have been coming in at different times on slightly different premises and that we seem not to have them all working together.

Given the seriousness of the suggestions in this reaction paper to the effect that they feel strongly enough about this that they believe it runs counter to the charter and their guarantees that they have won under section 23, perhaps now is the time to try to clear this matter up in the House before we then go out to committee, as the minister is suggesting we should do—and rightfully so—to have the input from these groups in Ottawa and elsewhere on the actual administration of Bill 109 in the Ottawa community.

I do not want to go into a lot of the detail now about the other concerns of the AFCSO, because they are directed to Bill 125. But the point I am trying to make is that whether or not there would be an impact by Bill 125 on Bill 109 in terms of the numbers of people elected and in terms of the amount of money that the board is going to get to be able to operate French programs is something I hope will be responded to by the minister in the House.

The other thing I did not hear him talk about, and I hope that in wrapping up the debate he may talk about this as well, is correspondence that some of us have received, and I presume he has received, from other boards in the province indicating their concerns about the constitutionality of this particular unified board, for want of a better term for what is being attempted here in the Ottawa-Carleton area. Perhaps he can talk to us a little bit about his approach to the potential constitutional problems that the other groups are bringing forward, specifically in terms of this being potentially a diminution of the rights guaranteed under section 93 to the Catholic ratepayers of Ontario.

Those concerns being raised, I would say again that I am not wanting to say that we are in opposition to this direction in any sense at all. We are very supportive of what is taking place. We just want to make sure that the results are what we all have been after in terms of finally seeing French *gérance* taking place in the school boards of Ontario and that we are not undermining that somehow by the mixing of the various laws that are involved.

On behalf of the New Democratic Party, I would just like to say again that we support the bill on second reading. We look forward to the minister's response.

We also wish it to go out to committee so that people can come forward. I heard the minister say he would hope that we would be able to meet here and in Ottawa around this issue. To do so, we will need the concurrence of the House and the special permission of the ex-Minister of

Education, the present House leader for the government, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), so that we may adjourn from place to place while this House is sitting, an unusual suggestion usually not given but in this case definitely warranted. I hope the minister will use his suasion to allow that to take place.

The Acting Speaker: Would any member like to comment on the remarks made by the member for Scarborough West? If not, the minister. I am sorry, the member for Nepean.

Mr. Daigeler: I thought I was tall enough be seen, but—

I would just like to reiterate, in response to the member, what I said earlier. I am sure there will remain open questions even after the very serious effort by the committee to improve, if possible, the legislation, which already is very good.

I would really like to encourage all the members here and those who will be looking at the legislation, and especially those who will be implementing the legislation, to remember that we are looking at a project—as they say in French, *un projet*—and that what is most important is having the school board established. Over time, we can have a working out of any of the difficulties and any of the shortcomings that may be there.

It will require, without doubt, a sense of commitment to the principle, a sense of listening to those who are of a different opinion, a working together, a sense of co-operation among the anglophone school boards and the francophone school boards in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I would just like to say that I appreciate that we are called to improve the legislation as much as possible at this point, but we should not forget that the most important thing here is the principle itself and that generosity of spirit and heart is what will make it ultimately work.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Of course, we want that kind of generosity to be seen, and I presume it will be seen, because it certainly has been part of the consultation process up to this time. But I think there are very practical matters that need to be addressed and that can be addressed before this has to be dealt with.

For instance, one of the problems that cannot be addressed now, because we rushed through an earlier piece of legislation, is the question of the definition of the francophone elector. I have a concern that in the Ottawa area there are many people whose first language is not French, whose second language is not English or French, and who want their kids to go to a French school because their second language is French. They

are not going to be able to send their children to that school or be electors for that school system because of the failure of the government to move the appropriate amendment on another bill which we hurried through.

I am just saying this is the time for this government and for this Legislature in committee to produce the kinds of refinements to this bill that will make sure that we are not disenfranchising many people or underfinancing the new board that we are establishing and setting it off in a worse condition than it might have been if it had been in the old style. That is all I am saying.

Mr. Sterling: It is a pleasure to speak in support of Bill 109, which will be supported by our party on second reading.

I was encouraged to hear from the minister that we will be travelling to the Ottawa-Carleton area to give people a chance to have input into this particular bill. Several groups have talked to me about their desire to put forward the position of their particular interests on this matter.

I apologize for not being able to speak in French for the French electorate, who have a particular interest in this matter, but my French is just a little better than the minister's French. I thought I would spare everyone in the franco-phone community the pain. I also do not have the same facility to have my remarks translated into French as the minister does.

You might be encouraged to know, Madam Speaker, that both of my children are fluently bilingual. When they come to take my place in the near or far distant future, they will be able to converse quite fluently in French.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain a little bit with regard to the problem that many of the groups in Ottawa have in understanding the intention of the government.

I believe that only a few short months ago, the minister sent out a consultation document setting forth the intent of the government and asking for a response from various interested groups, but he gave them only a very short period of time. I was encouraged to see that several groups, although they were given only a very short period of time, made very good representations to the minister, most of them dated in March. I believe the end of March 1988 was the time they were given to respond to the consultation document.

I am told by some of the particular groups that did respond that the legislation totally reflects what was in the consultation document, and very few of the concerns they expressed in their responses were taken into account in the final draft of Bill 109. Therefore, I hope the minister

will retain flexibility and an open mind with regard to arguments that are put forward for reasonable amendments to this particular act.

1530

As the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) brought forward, there has been an expression by several groups, including the Ottawa Board of Education and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board with regard to the constitutionality of this piece of legislation. As you may remember, Madam Speaker, I asked the minister in this House why there was a difference in terms of the government's position on the constitutionality issue at this point in time, when it says there can be unified boards; that is, having a public sector and a Roman Catholic sector under one unified board. Why is that constitutional now, when in fact in June 1986 it was not constitutional?

The government has changed its mind with regard to the constitutionality of a unified board and has perhaps crafted the legislation in such a fashion that it thinks this meets the constitutional argument. Notwithstanding any previous position I may have had with regard to the extension of separate school funding, I have no desire to see a situation where a mess is created by Bill 109.

If he would be kind enough, I would like the minister, in his response to my remarks, to tell me and various groups what reports and what opinions he is relying on with regard to the constitutionality of this particular bill.

I will tell members why that is important. As we go through this process and as we bring forward amendments to Bill 109, I think it is important for the members of the committee and members of the public who are making submissions to the committee to understand the limits to which those particular amendments can go.

If, in fact, within this bill there are certain sections which cannot be tinkered with because of the constitutional problem, if one wants to put it in that context, then I think the committee that hears the submissions and the public in general should know where those limitations are.

In talking to one individual in one group today, one of his concerns about Bill 109 related to the inflexibility of certain sections as to what can be shared between the two boards. He drew as an example the problem where there is a program which the board wants to offer—let us take the example of children with a mental handicap—where the classes would be so small in terms of the joint board that it would make no economic sense to have two programs under this particular board.

I think the unified board, the people in the Ottawa-Carleton area and in the francophone community would like to go to the limits of the constitutionality but have as much flexibility as possible within the act in order to be able to allow the board to provide joint services where there is a very small number of students requiring those joint services. So the joint board could say that when there is a program for five students—say, two from the public sector and three from the Roman Catholic sector—it will put those five students in a program and run it as a one-time program.

That is what I think the minister is going to hear when he travels to Ottawa. There is going to be some concern with some of the sections that are very rigid in their nature and do not allow the joint board to provide that kind of a program to a small group of students.

The other concern that has been raised—and I know the minister has indicated in his opening remarks that he intends to address it—is the financial viability of the new board.

This joint board or unified board makes five or six boards in the Ottawa-Carleton area. It depends on whether we look at the unified board as a double board or we look at it as a single board. As we split up the jurisdiction or the number of students that are being educated in the Ottawa-Carleton area, there is a limitation on the amount of administration, on the amount of top-ending that we can have in any system. We are not only concerned, in our caucus, with regard to the financial viability of the new francophone board, but we are also very much concerned with the financial viability of the boards from which these students are coming. That includes both of the public boards that will remain, the Ottawa Board of Education and the Carleton Board of Education, and the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board.

How will they be compensated with regard to the loss of revenue which will result from the exodus of a significant number of students? I am told that the new board may have as many as 20,000 students within this new structure. We are not talking about a small transfer of a small number of students to a new structure. We are concerned, first of all, that the new francophone board have a fair shake in terms of its financial viability and we are also concerned about the financial viability of the boards from which those students come.

The last thing that I might say is that we have a critical situation in both the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board and in the Carleton Board of Education in the way in which this government has treated those particular boards. This government, this minister and his parliamentary assistant in particular, who represents part of the area, have deemed the Carleton and the Ottawa area as a very rich area. They have said that in public.

The end result means that this year, the member for Nepean will know that his taxpayers are going to pay \$116 more on average per household in property taxes because his government, the member for Nepean's government, the Liberal government, has dropped its support in the Carleton Board of Education area from 48 per cent to 43 per cent in one year. It has dropped the provincial support by that much because it says we are too rich in that area. The minister should try to tell a property taxpayer that is the situation.

With all of these problems with regard to funding—and I have not mentioned the meagre amount of the funding for capital that this government gave to the Carleton Board of Education, which is pressed enormously with regard to housing its students and has had to expend dollars in that whole area which is normally assumed by the provincial government—again, the property taxpayer has to pick up that kind of an expenditure.

We have a situation where we have financial pressures because of this government's—I think—maltreatment of both the Carleton Board of Education and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board. We already have a critical financial situation with regard to those boards; now we have another situation which could create another problem in relation to the financing of education.

I am very much concerned that the quality of education in the Carleton board and the Carleton Roman Catholic Separate School Board is in jeopardy and will be put in further jeopardy if the minister does not properly finance this new board and tries to take it, again, out of the hides of the property taxpayers in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

On an optimistic note, I hope that when the minister comes to Ottawa-Carleton, and I hope the minister himself will be there because he is going to hear from people in that particular area with regard to their concerns over this bill, he is going to hear about problems he has already created with regard to funding in Ottawa-Carleton, and I hope he gives a sympathetic ear for a change.

1540

Mr. Daigeler: In case he does not know, I would like to point out to the member for Carleton that in Nepean we are doing very well, thank you, under the present minister. In fact, the reallocation across the province for the school boards is due to a victory for Nepean city council, which has fought for this readjustment for many years. We have received a \$4-million repayment from the province for this unfair taxation system which had been in place since 1971. In fact, very soon the Nepean public school ratepayers will be receiving from the city a cheque in the amount of approximately \$50, and the separate school ratepayers will be receiving a cheque in the amount of approximately \$25.

Perhaps the reason the member for Carleton is so critical of this initiative, which establishes greater equity among the boards, is the fact that in his area they used to pay less and we in Nepean used to pay more, and now we are finally getting some justice for Nepean.

The Acting Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to comment? If not, does the member for Carleton wish to comment? Two minutes.

Mr. Sterling: I would love to comment. I am so happy the member for Nepean is happy with his government charging each and every individual public school taxpayer \$116 more per residence because of its action. If he feels comfortable that is greater equity, then I only hope he will not object to them printing in the brochures in the next election his complete happiness with the equity and the treatment he is receiving from this Liberal government. I am very happy with the member's speech this afternoon.

M. Pouliot: Cela me fait plaisir, comme d'autres collègues ont su si bien le faire il y a quelques minutes, de prononcer quelques mots sur le projet de loi 109. J'aimerais adresser mes félicitations à l'actuel ministre de l'Éducation, ainsi qu'à son prédécesseur, pour leur courage calculé. Quand je dis courage calculé, je fais allusion à la décision de la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario, celle de 1984, qui affirmait les droits des francophones à la représentation dans la gestion scolaire.

Néanmoins, le gouvernement actuel a su passer de l'idée sur papier à un projet de loi, début encourageant, car il y a très longtemps que la francophonie, plus précisément les francophones de l'Ontario, attendent l'occasion d'être représentés en matière scolaire comme les autres, en majorité, le sont dans la province de l'Ontario.

Permettez-moi, Madame la Présidente, d'attirer l'attention du ministre de l'Éducation sur quelques mises en garde concernant le projet de loi 109. J'aimerais attirer son attention sur les méthodes de recensement touchant la région d'Ottawa-Carleton. Il est difficile de passer d'un texte qui est assez ambigu, à l'éducation de la population en ce qui concerne ses droits dans le recensement. Bien sûr, c'est beaucoup plus facile pour les anglophones, qui, eux, n'ont pas à s'identifier. Mais pour les francophones, qui doivent s'identifier, les outils ou le mécanisme ne s'y trouvent pas.

On pourrait croire, bien sûr, que ce projet de loi a été pensé en toute hâte, comme si on se devait de faire rapidement ce qu'on avait omis de faire depuis si longtemps. Mais non, les ressources ministérielles sont en place. Ce qui porte à penser, et j'essaie d'être positif, que si les mêmes ressources ministérielles sont en place pour permettre que la justice soit faite également aux deux groupes linguistiques, bah! ça me force à penser simplement: Pourquoi ne l'a-t-on pas fait? Les situations ambiguës continueront-elles? Et si on permet qu'elles continuent, pourquoi? Pourquoi ne pas clarifier la situation de la représentation des francophones dans le comté d'Ottawa-Carleton?

Car si celle-ci est importante, il faut aussi penser à ce qui va suivre le prototype d'Ottawa-Carleton. Une occasion pour se réjouir, sans doute. Que va-t-il se passer dans l'avenir? Donc, l'importance capitale d'être certain que la situation d'Ottawa-Carleton pourra servir de prototype, avec des données plus exactes que celles que le ministre nous confie en ce moment.

Permettez-moi en conclusion, Madame la Présidente, de me joindre encore une fois aux autres membres de l'Assemblée législative pour féliciter le gouvernement sincèrement de ses efforts, mais aussi et surtout pour féliciter la population francophone, chez qui la patience n'a jamais été moins qu'une vertu mais qui a continué, néanmoins, à croire qu'un jour ce serait possible. Le gouvernement a beaucoup de travail, son courage est nuancé. Vous savez, avec les décisions de la Cour d'appel, on finit par faire ce qu'on a à faire. Mais félicitons l'ancien ministre de l'Éducation, le député de Renfrew-Nord, et l'actuel ministre de l'Éducation.

The Acting Speaker: Would any honourable member wish to comment upon the remarks made by the member for Lake Nipigon?

Mr. Beer: Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on what the member for Lake Nipigon has just said because I think it is important, when

we are developing here a piece of legislation that in many respects is historical, to recognize some of the people who have in earlier days worked very hard to ensure French-language educational program services in schools for the Franco-Ontarian population.

I would like, in particular, to note the work done by the late Roland Bériault who was with the Ministry of Education for many years and also served as the head of the Ottawa Roman Catholic Separate School Board in Ottawa. As many members will recall in 1967, former Premier John Robarts had announced the creation of a committee headed by Mr. Bériault to set up for the first time legislation creating French-language schools.

I can recall during those discussions—and at that time I was the secretary of that particular committee—that there was discussion about the possibility of creating a French-language board in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

I think Mr. Bériault understandably and wisely at that time felt that the first step was to get the legal recognition of French-language schools and that would come with time. I am sure for many it has taken too long, but the important thing is that that now has come and I think we should all recognize the work that Mr. Bériault did during that time in bringing that about.

I would also like to note briefly the work that Professor Thomas Symons carried out a few years later, also in laying the groundwork for the kind of step which has been taken today.

1550

Mr. Jackson: I too wish to add my voice in support of this bill on behalf of my party. I also wish to indicate that when responding to the bill back on April 11, I suggested that the Minister of Education carefully consider and come back to this House and state three basic assurances about this historic piece of legislation.

First, we asked at that time that both the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Minister of Education provide assurances to this House that the francophone community itself will unanimously support this legislation. It has broad implications for the entire province and, therefore, although it deals specifically with Ottawa-Carleton, it is an important first step which will have implications for all francophone education in this province in years to come.

The second one, and specifically why I requested the Attorney General's participation in the debate, was that he assure this House that there are no legal impediments to the government's creating such a francophone board in

Ottawa-Carleton, as suggested in the government's Bill 109.

Finally, we asked for assurance that both the public and the separate school boards involved can become wholly supportive of the proposed reorganization. All three political parties have indicated that they support referring this bill to committee for the very reason that, as the minister stood in the House today, he was unable to provide the assurances that we called upon him to provide on April 11.

He has had, as he stated, an extensive period of consultation in which he could have resolved these outstanding issues. For some reason, he has been unable to do so, and he may wish to respond at the end of my comments as to why he has been unable to provide those assurances. Having said that, it is important that we do resolve them in the process of the public hearings. Our party supports their being conducted in the city of Ottawa and in the greater Ottawa-Carleton region, as well as here at Queen's Park, to provide access for the broader francophone community in Ontario.

As my colleagues the member for Lake Nipigon, the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) and the member for Scarborough West have all indicated, we have serious concerns about the economic implications of proceeding with this historic step for francophone education, which quite literally represents the third official educational system for this province, at the very time when the ministry's record in terms of financing has generated public comments, with board after board left wanting in the areas of their operating grants and their capital grants.

So we need assurances, as does the French-language educational council of the Ottawa Board of Education, which in its brief indicated its concerns about funding. It stated quite clearly, and I quote from that report, "As the bill remains silent on the specifics of the proposed method of funding, we feel that it will be impossible to maintain the exceptional quality, range and variety of services and programs presently offered by the Ottawa Board of Education to its French-language students."

This clearly explains why teachers, students, parents and educators have expressed some reservations which were not criticisms of the intent of this bill. But it is important that we, as legislators from all parties, approach this bill with an open mind about ensuring that it can be made better. I use the analogy to the minister that this being a historic piece of legislation, it is like a child's first step, and it is important that we do

not burden the child with too much responsibility too early or he will fail. It is important that we provide all the expertise and the forethought into that first step to ensure that it succeeds, that it is funded properly and that it does not have negative impacts on the balance of the educational family in the Ottawa-Carleton area, the other four boards that will be operating in coterminous harmony with the new Ottawa-Carleton francophone board.

The Association of Large School Boards in Ontario, ALSBO, as well has expressed its fear quite openly that this legislation will set, in effect, the government's requirement to address the issue of pooling of industrial-commercial assessment in Ontario. We know the government is considering the Macdonald commission report. We have also even heard that staff members from the Ministry of Revenue are actively working, not only within a committee but also on the side, on the various models for the implications of pooling industrial-commercial assessment for school boards and it has been suggested that will be presented before cabinet for consideration.

It would appear that the whole agenda on education, whether it is francophone, representational in terms of where trustees run and their apportionment or on their funding, seems to be further complicated by the ministry's lack of setting out an ordered, clear sense of vision and direction for the Ministry of Education at this time. The bill we are referring to committee has references within it to elements of Bill 76, and that bill had to be withdrawn by the minister within the last week because of complications and further amendments which seem to be compounding on the minister.

It is clear now, as the member for Scarborough West has indicated, that there is a lot of thought required to ensure that this bill can work from the simple point of the democratic rights and representation of trustees in the greater Ottawa area.

I wish to indicate my dismay that the Attorney General has remained silent, has made no public comment about the implications of this bill. He was, as this House is very aware, a prominent speaker before the Supreme Court on the matter of Bill 30. He took a very clear and articulate position with respect to the issue of unified school boards, and yet he seems unable or unwilling to respond to the questions that have been raised, quite frankly, by political representatives in this House from all three parties. We

wait for the Attorney General to give some clarity to that.

Hopefully, he will appear before us in committee and will indicate that there are no legal impediments for the government to proceed in this regard. We will participate actively in the committee hearings. We welcome the opportunity that process will provide in order to amend this bill in a manner which will ensure a stable first step for the long-term success and future of francophone educational rights in Ontario.

Mlle Martel: Je voudrais me joindre à mes collègues du Nouveau Parti démocratique en faisant des félicitations au ministre de l'Éducation pour ce projet de loi. Je sais, en lisant l'histoire de cette question, que c'est une question importante pour les gens d'Ottawa-Carleton et pour la province de l'Ontario en effet, et je voudrais offrir mes félicitations au ministre pour son travail et pour le travail de l'ancien ministre dans ce domaine.

Cela dit, il faut absolument dire qu'il existe quelques problèmes à propos de ce projet de loi, et je voudrais souligner ces problèmes, en particulier en ce qui concerne le conseil scolaire catholique de Sudbury, qui m'a parlé de cela et qui voulait vraiment obtenir des réponses à ses questions sur ce sujet.

1600

I just want to outline for the minister some of the concerns that have been raised by the Sudbury District Roman Catholic Separate School Board concerning this particular bill and how it may affect the board in the future. I ask that, during the committee proceedings and during the course of this bill through second reading and on into third, their concerns be taken into consideration.

First, if I may go through them, the separate school board had some great difficulty with the consultative process itself surrounding Bill 109; that is to say they were very concerned that the process did not provide any opportunity to other boards in the province to make their concerns known to the minister. I understand the case is very specific to Ottawa-Carleton, but I also understand we are setting a precedent here that could have a tremendous impact on separate school boards and public school boards across the province.

Taking their concerns to heart, I note they were asked to respond to the consultative document concerning the Ottawa-Carleton process. However, the document itself did not arrive in the Sudbury education office until March 16. They were asked to respond by March 26, which

in effect did not leave the boards—that is, the French and the English sides—time to get together, to make recommendations and to outline their problems to the minister. They were extremely concerned that if the government wanted to keep it local, that is, to hear only the concerns expressed by the four boards in the Carleton region, then other groups should not have been asked for their input in this regard if there was not enough time for them to respond. I say to the minister that in future if we are going to look at having this process put in place in other areas of the province, then the consultative process has to be lengthened and other boards have to be able to have some input.

Second, they are concerned about the duties and the powers which are outlined in the bill which are going to be exclusive to each sector, that is, the separate school sector and the public school sector. Their concern is that the duties and powers may in effect not be clearly outlined, and the mandate of each sector may in fact not be clearly outlined. Therefore, trustees who are elected to either board are going to have to share in some responsibility concerning both the separate and the public school vein of education. They are very concerned that trustees may be put in that situation which could be very untenable for them if the mandate and the responsibilities of both sectors are not clearly outlined under the legislation. I would ask the minister, when he establishes what the duties and powers of both sectors are going to be, that they be very clearly defined for both and they know what their responsibilities in both areas are.

Third, they did have some concerns that the rights of French-speaking school supporters in either sector were not having their rights either protected or upheld; that is to say that French-speaking school supporters, either separate or public, would now have no choice but to belong to the mixed French-language school unless they wanted to renege on their linguistic rights, and I am sure most of them would not want to do that.

English school supporters will continue to maintain the choice of belonging to either the separate school board or the public school board, but this right will effectively be taken away from the French school supporters. I realize that may be very much the choice and the desire of school supporters in the Ottawa-Carleton region, but I ask that the minister have some consideration, therefore, that it might not work around the rest of the province. In fact, it may be a case particularly special for the Ottawa-Carleton region which they are willing to accept but that

process may not work around the rest of the province and that will have to be taken into consideration if we are going to look at establishing a similar process around the rest of the province after this is established.

Fourth, they had some great concerns again about the financial assessment. I know my colleagues and members from the Conservative Party have also expressed some of their concerns on it. It was the feeling of the separate school board in Sudbury that perhaps the inequities or the inequalities of the financing, in particular corporate financing, should have been addressed before there was any attempt to create a mixed school board.

I know the minister has said it today, and in the legislation it states that special grants will be put into place until the government adopts some new measures as a consequence or after reviewing the elementary and secondary school funding in the province. But I must say there has been a great deal of concern expressed to the ministry about this particular problem by the trustees' association, the Commission on the Financing of Elementary and Secondary Education and also by l'Association des enseignantes et enseignants franco-ontariens. The minister has not been able to address that question before actually establishing this legislation and putting the school board into place.

I truly hope the review by the ministry of elementary and separate school financing will be done as quickly as possible so that if this is going to occur again across the province, some equitable method of financing will be in place before we go on to establish another mixed board.

Finally, they expressed some reservations about possible future actions by the ministry in this regard, and their concern was that the situation in Ottawa-Carleton was going to be established before, in fact, the minister's own government released studies on the feasibility of regional French-language school boards in the province. I take it that that study has been under way for some time and that whoever is doing the study is actually supposed to report on this some time in December 1988. It was their concern that perhaps if we are going to move to French-language school boards across the province, then that study should have been released beforehand and we could all have seen what the possibilities were for other school boards in the same vein as Ottawa-Carleton to be feasible across the province.

I can appreciate, I want to say to the minister, that the situation is indeed special, that there have been calls for a particular mixed board in the Ottawa-Carleton region since the mid-1970s. I can appreciate that the ministry wanted to look at this situation, this case in point, establish it and see how it would work in one area of the province. I would advise, though, once the board is established and the problems are ironed out, that if we are going to move to other mixed boards across the province, the consultative process itself be broadened. It has to include other interested parties, both separate and public school supporters in both linguistic groups, who are concerned that it may not be applied as well in their own areas or that it cannot be feasibly applied in their own areas. I just ask that if this does work and we are going to expand it across the province, the consultative process and the views of other organizations be broadened and that their opinions be taken into regard.

I want to say in closing that I did want to put those comments on the record. I know the school boards in Sudbury, particularly the separate school board, do have some problems, but they are quite willing to attend the committee hearings in order to express their concerns there and their hopes for the future.

I want to congratulate the minister again on presenting the project, and I hope he will keep in mind all the comments made by all members today as we move through this bill.

Mr. Beer: If I might, I will continue briefly in these two minutes with a historical note on the legislation we are dealing with.

Je voudrais souligner le travail de quatre personnes. Je parle ici de quatre sous-ministres adjoints, en commençant par le docteur Laurier Carrière, qui, si ma mémoire est bonne, a commencé vers la fin des années 60. Il a été suivi par Gérard Raymond, qui est toujours dans le gouvernement; et, après Gérard, Berchmans Kipp et, aujourd'hui, M^{me} Mariette Carrier-Fraser. Les quatre, y compris M^{me} Carrier-Fraser aujourd'hui, ont travaillé très fort pour la population francophone dans le domaine de l'éducation. Nous oublions parfois le travail que ces gens ont fait pour assurer l'épanouissement de la communauté francophone en Ontario.

I would like, if I might, to take from the analogy the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) used of a child taking its first step. I think I would rather look at it as a mature adult whose time has finally come and that what we are doing here with this legislation is right and proper.

The Deputy Speaker: Merci. Other comments and questions please. If not, would the member wish to respond? Are there other members who wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Allen: I would like to join in this debate on this very historic bill the minister has introduced, which we now are accepting for second reading. There is no doubt at all that this is one of the more important pieces of legislation in the domain of education that has been passed, or will be passed, by this Legislature.

I recall very clearly when we were wrestling with this issue under the previous government and finding considerable difficulty in moving towards a concept of French schools governance that would allow for anything more than French-language committees or sections within the context of existing school boards—despite the fact that there had been a major court reference in 1984 that had been responded to by the Ontario courts with the judgement that it was the proper right of French-speaking persons in Ontario to expect to be able to govern their own schools in Ontario, regardless of existing school boards or school board boundaries—that none the less, that government was reluctant to move.

I recall very clearly an evening early in the new regime of the Liberal-New Democratic Party accord when the member for Prescott and Russell (Mr. Poirier), the member for Carleton East (Mr. Morin), the member for Lake Nipigon, the then member for Ottawa Centre, myself, the minister at that time the member for Renfrew North and his principal aid in this field, Mariette Carrier-Fraser, spent a long-tortured evening discussing how we would break through from that particular standpoint we had been left with by the previous government.

We in this party pushed very hard on that evening, as I recall, for a multimodel approach to the question of French schools governance in Ontario so that there would be options available, depending upon the degree of development of each French-language community in different parts and regions of the province, that would be appropriate to their circumstances.

In the course of that, we recognized that the model that has been developed since in Bill 75, the French-language-section approach, was appropriate to some parts of the province. We recognized that there was at least one part of the province, namely, the Ottawa-Carleton region, in which there had been substantial historic sounding of the issue of a homogeneous French board for the French community in that region, and that there might also be some reason to have a

slightly different creation for the Metropolitan Toronto area.

It is interesting to see that out of that discussion at that time has come, in point of fact, the three separate initiatives that outline the different structures that have been emerging around the whole question of French schools governance.

The minister was not involved in the discussions directly on Bill 75, but he will probably be quite aware, as it is now his responsibility, that in the context of Bill 75, we in this party also pressed very strongly for some further exploration of the question of regional French boards in this province, and that the ministry was charged with the responsibility of establishing a commission that would examine the possibility and viability of French-language boards on a regional basis in other parts of the province.

I understand that group is still at work. I believe its timetable is to bring in a report, according to the legislation, by the end of this year, December 1988. We will be looking forward to that report with considerable anticipation.

I would want to underline in that respect that the concerns my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) has noted will of course be ones that will have to be met in the future as we move in this direction.

I know my colleague the member for Prescott and Russell himself represents a region where the representatives of the boards in that region, working through the particularly difficult schooling arrangements in their school district, have themselves come to the conclusion that the only solution to that region's problems is to consolidate a French-language board out of that and then to have separate and public English boards parallel with that structure, which would simplify the governance of the school system in that area.

I think it is highly likely that what we are debating in this House with respect to the legislation now proposed for Ottawa-Carleton will indeed become a model that will provide at least some indication to other regions, as they mature and wish to take advantage of it, of what can be a possibility for them too. We all want for the French community in Ontario the fullest governance possible of its educational structures.

When the ministry appointed the commission under Albert Roy, and Roy reported, in the document we have all looked at, I think with some care and interest, there were a number of problems that we had at that point in time. A number of them have obviously been worked out

by the implementation committee and others have been refined somewhat in the legislation, but there remain a few items that do concern us.

Some of these undoubtedly are the subject of negotiation in the local region. For example, the problem of the transfer of educational buildings other than schools is a matter of some negotiation. The question of the transfer of equipment remains somewhat outstanding.

There was in the Roy report no real discussion of the financial implications or the financial resources necessary to the new boards. Much of that is now in place, although I want to underscore the concerns of our critic in this field, the member for Scarborough West, when he suggests that it will be necessary for us to look very carefully at those resources.

There is some possibility that with the way the registration of electors will take place and the way in which the commercial-industrial assessment will play out in the area, there may well be some inequity involved and the resources to provide an equivalent education to that which the students have been used to in the boards they have come from will not be appropriately maintained at a high level of quality. None of us would want to see this experiment result in any reduction of quality in education for the pupils involved.

While there are some concerns, we none the less applaud the work of the implementation committee and of the ministry in bringing it all together into what, on my first reading, is overall a reasonably acceptable document for the implementation of the new board.

I also want to compliment the various boards, teachers and staff organizations that have been involved in the negotiations for the transfer of staff. My understanding is that this has been done in a very harmonious fashion and that, in particular, with regard to most staff and the teachers, there are no outstanding problems in that regard. There may still be some with regard to those in superintending and consulting positions in boards, where the consolidation may make their roles somewhat superfluous. I hope the minister will find a way, along with the implementation committee and the new boards, to work that out to everybody's satisfaction.

What is of course most striking about the new board is the fact that it is a unified-board model that includes both separate and public entities. This is something that has not gone without notice in the English community in Ontario and many are somewhat envious, I think, of the degree to which there has been a significant

breakthrough in the French community on this subject. I think one has to recognize that the issue, after all, beds down on the willingness of the community itself to close ranks around that question and to accept that model, which makes it possible to satisfy at one and the same time the separate schooling rights under the British North America Act, and to join in an administrative structure with the public side of education.

1620

I understand there have been at least five or six different legal opinions rendered on that question. Only one of them has some significant reservations about whether the structure stands the test of constitutionality. It would seem a very substantial majority of legal and constitutional opinions on the subject appears to bear out the viability and the constitutionality of the structure in question. That is, of course, very good news.

What that issue rests upon is the willingness of those who are party to those rights and who are the inheritors of those rights under the Constitution for separate schooling to join in such an arrangement.

The question is not one of the possibility of an instant constitutional reflex that would make the same possibility, the same structure, happen for the rest of the province overnight. Obviously that is, for the anglophone community in Ontario, a matter of ongoing debate. That will have to be resolved in its own way. Those of us who supported Bill 30 so strongly believed it was only by completing that system that we would be able to move towards a healthy basis of co-operation between the separate and public boards in anglophone Ontario that might open up adventures in new and co-operative living, if I can put it that way, in the field of education.

Without wishing to extend my remarks on this subject, I want to say that I am glad to see that the very original recommendations that came from the Mayo commission on municipal government back in the late 1970s have now been brought to the point of a major piece of legislation before us. I look forward to having it go to committee, as I expect it undoubtedly will, for further comment by interested parties so that we may all, quite expeditiously, get on with the creation of this historic board structure in the Ottawa-Carleton region which should serve, I think, as a landmark for the French community of Ontario at long last.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any questions and comments?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to make a brief comment. As I sit in the House and listen to the debate today, it has been a long time since we

heard such support for an initiative from the Minister of Education. I want to just note and applaud the remarks from my colleagues on the opposite side of the House and say that it is kind of nice to hear this kind of unanimity for a change in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I feel obliged to rise and inform the House and especially the Minister of Health that any time there is legislation and other initiatives forthcoming that are worthy of support, they will get it.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there any other questions and comments? If not, would the member for Hamilton West wish to respond?

Mr. Allen: Only that I think Madam Minister was not in the House for the first part of my remarks in which I explained how very much this was a joint product, that the decision to move in this direction really did require our support at that point in time as a party, or else perhaps nothing of this sort might have happened.

I know she is not trying to introduce in a roundabout way a new note of disagreement among us at all. I certainly accept her reflection on the occasion being one of those marvellous moments when we can agree on the main thrust of a major project like this. I think it is good for all of us to have that experience.

The Deputy Speaker: I must admit that being a Speaker is a very pleasant task this afternoon. Is there any other debate, please, from other members? If not, does the minister wish to wrap up?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to extend my appreciation to all members of the House for their contributions to the debate today. Certainly, a number of issues have been raised during the course of the afternoon's discussions, issues relative to trustee representation on the board about to be created, issues relative to its financing and its constitutionality, and issues that are of a much broader nature relative to the rights of franco-Ontarians to school governance, not only in the Ottawa-Carleton region but throughout this province.

I want to respond to the member for Scarborough West on a couple of points he raised on the issue of financing. It was indeed a concern of the government and the ministry that the board to be established in the Ottawa-Carleton region, at least in the short term, have access to the necessary resources to provide the kinds of services the residents of that community are accustomed to, albeit that many of the services they are accustomed to are a result of a rather extensive assessment base, and both boards do in

fact spend considerably above ceiling, at a higher level than most boards of education in this province.

I suppose that in part responds to the concerns of the member for Carleton who has ongoing concerns relative to the utilization of an equalized mill rate. He knows full well the alternatives to that method and those points have been made, I think, during the presentations that were made during the MacDonald commission. I will take his point of view and that of others into careful consideration when we look at the long-term needs of elementary and secondary school financing in this province.

With reference to the issue of trustee representation, the principles that were put in place in what was initially Bill 76, subsequently replaced by Bill 125 to include the school boards in Metropolitan Toronto, do apply with an exception; that is, the minimum representation of both sectors on these boards is seven. Frankly, I think it is appropriate.

In dealing with this legislation, I think it is important to note that it is a very specific piece of legislation that applies to the very special needs of one community in this province. I think the member for Sudbury East very clearly indicated concerns that had been expressed by many francophones throughout this province in regions other than Ottawa-Carleton.

Clearly, over the course of the coming months, we will have to turn our attention to how we wish to proceed relative to the French-language governance rights of francophones as they relate to school boards, but I think it is important that this legislation not be seen as the prototype. What is good for Ottawa-Carleton in this regard may not necessarily be good for Prescott and Russell or for Nipissing, Sudbury or Timmins.

I want to assure all members of the House that we are indeed committed to looking very carefully at this issue and coming up with a mechanism that I hope can be applied in any jurisdiction in this province. As the member for Hamilton West acknowledged, no doubt it will have to have within it some great flexibility, because the circumstances are so different from community to community.

I want to speak also about the consultation process because there have been some references, particularly by my colleague the member for Burlington South, that there is concern that much of the input that came forward as a result of the consultation process was not reflected in any

amendments to the language of the bill as it was available at the time.

I think it is important that we all recognize that the consultation process utilized for Bill 109 was unprecedented. Prior to the bill's even being printed, a document was circulated, a compendium of the legislation, so that parties that had a specific interest in this piece of legislation could begin to review and to prepare their input.

1630

The member for Burlington South, I think, is aware that we are under very, very severe time constraints relative to the legislative process. I would never comment on how legislative time is used within this Legislature, because I know it is always used effectively. However, sometimes it is difficult to make sure we get all the input we possibly can, and I look forward to the committee hearings so that we can look carefully at those submissions—

Mr. Jackson: Are you going to go to Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Ward: —in Ottawa, as well as in Toronto. I am willing to visit any part of this province, but particularly the Ottawa-Carleton region, because I am very fond of that community and we have done great things in education in Ottawa-Carleton over the course of the past year.

Mr. Sterling: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Do we get a chance to respond to the minister's allegations during these wrapups?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I just want to say that I am very grateful for the input we have received from all members of the Legislature. I look forward to the committee hearings and to the ongoing co-operation of all members of this House as we take what I believe is a very, very significant step with regard to the rights of francophone residences in the province.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Bill ordered for the standing committee on social development.

Le projet de loi est déposé au Comité permanent des affaires sociales.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This bill will improve the local government electoral process in Ontario. It is very important that the process by which municipal school board and public utilities

commission representatives are elected is as open and accessible as possible.

This bill is the end result of an extensive consultation process which began with the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections early in 1986. Municipalities, school boards, public utilities commissions and their respective organizations and other interest groups have given us their input at many different points during the process.

This legislation will establish limits based on a formula related to the number of electors within the municipality or school board area in which the candidate is running. It will also limit campaign contributions to a candidate to \$750 per individual contributor. This is consistent with the rules that apply to provincial elections.

While there will be limits on individual contributions, there is another provision that will encourage people to contribute to the local election campaigns. The legislation will permit municipalities, school boards or public utilities commissions to adopt a campaign-contribution rebate system modelled on the provincial system. In jurisdictions that choose to implement the system, campaign contributors will be eligible for rebates up to \$350. The system will be administered by the Commission on Election Finances for the local government elections in 1988 and 1991. After 1991, the system will be reviewed. The rebates will be funded by the jurisdictions that choose to adopt the system.

In keeping with this government's commitment to openness in government, the legislation also provides for mandatory disclosure of campaign financing. Given the diversity of local government, the disclosure process will vary according to the amount spent by the candidate.

In jurisdictions that choose not to implement the rebate system, candidates who receive \$1,000 or less in contributions and spend \$1,000 or less will be required to make a statutory declaration. Candidates with more than \$1,000 in either contributions or expenses will be required to file detailed, unaudited statements of contribution and expenses with the municipal clerk. Those with more than \$20,000 in either contributions or expenses will be required to file detailed, audited statements with the municipal clerk.

In those jurisdictions that adopt the rebate system, all candidates will have to file detailed, audited statements with the Commission on Election Finances and the municipal clerk. These statements will be available for public scrutiny.

The legislation calls for two mandatory advance polls instead of the one that is now required. Both advance polls and regular polls will be open from 10 in the morning to eight o'clock in the evening. The new legislation also requires that all advance polls be accessible to the disabled and physically challenged for the 1988 elections and that all polls be accessible for the 1991 elections. This government will not allow anyone to be disfranchised simply because of a physical disability.

During the consultation process, concerns were expressed about the recount procedure and the burden it places on the courts. This legislation permits recounts to be undertaken by a recount officer rather than the courts. The recount officer will be the municipal clerk or someone appointed by the clerk well in advance of the elections. Recounts will automatically be undertaken at the request of a candidate if the spread between the winning candidate and the runner-up is less than half a vote per poll. Such a request will have to be made within seven days of the declaration of results. Other requests for recounts will have to be made within 30 days of the announcement of results. Appeals, disputes and irregularities will continue to be dealt with by the clerk.

Another change will require elected representatives to maintain their qualifications for their entire term. This means a municipal representative's seat would be declared vacant if he or she moved away from the municipality and was no longer eligible to vote in that municipality.

A strong local government depends on the participation of its citizens both as candidates and as voters. The legislation I am proposing will encourage that participation, which is so important to the democratic process. I know honourable members will not want to delay the legislation, so that it can be in place for the early planning of this year's municipal elections.

Mr. Breaugh: For a number of years now, many of us, on all sides of the House, I think, have called for something like this. Essentially, we have called for some form of restriction on spending in municipal campaigns and we have talked about some way to provide the same tax advantages to people who make a contribution to a municipal campaign as are available for both federal and provincial contributions these days.

We are going to oppose the bill, precisely because we think the principle of introducing this type of legislation in its final form in April of an election year, debating it now on second reading in May of a municipal election year, and putting it into law some time in the month of probably

June or July, is a rather impractical way to go about it.

I note that this bill has some 54 pages of detail which will substantially alter the electoral process for the municipal elections this fall. It will become law probably some time in the month of June or July. Unfortunately, that happens to be for many municipal governments, as it is for most industries, in the middle of a vacation period, so it will mean that in many small municipalities they are going to have notice of these changes—some will argue now—by means of the statements that the minister has made previously or by means of discussions that have gone on in municipal organizations over the years. In a sense, they have had that kind of notice; but they have not seen the final bill until April of this year, and they will not know exactly what that bill will look like until probably about four to five months before the election occurs.

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There are some municipalities which are in fact equipped to handle this kind of intense change to the election process in short order. But I want to point out that there are many which will not be able to cope with these changes at all and I want to point out that the stimulus from the government side for this type of change probably came from a major report it did on municipal elections, I believe about three years ago, chaired by, among others, Anne Johnston.

As I recall it, one of the prime conditions that they put on changes to the process was that after January 1 of any election year there should be no further change. I think basically they were simply recognizing that in their knowledge of the municipal process—and they had a good blend of people from larger urban centres, small towns and rural areas in Ontario—they knew that municipal councils and their local administrations differ somewhat in their ability to respond to legislative changes.

So one of their prime arguments, as I recall, was very simply that whatever changes the government might choose to make having to do with municipal elections, it really does have to give a lot of notice. I am reminded constantly that as things go through, as legislative changes are made here, it does take some period of time until they are fully understood all across Ontario.

I believe that there is an honest attempt here to try to do some good. I want to go in some detail into some of the things that I think really do have to be done. It should be obvious to everyone now that there is some need for some cap on election spending in municipal elections. It is not a major

problem in many of our communities. In many of our small towns, I know people who get elected to municipal councils repeatedly and who do not spend \$50 in an election campaign, and I am sure all of us who have any working knowledge of municipal politics will know that there is no campaign team and no election process. They walk around town and talk to people, which in many ways is the electoral process at its finest because it allows direct communication between those seeking public office and those who will elect them.

In many parts of Ontario that is the norm. All of us know people who have been elected repeatedly over the years, who have served their own municipalities well and have never spent really a dime, so to speak, on elections and have never really run an election campaign, as we know it, for example, as provincial members. That is the nature of municipal politics.

At the other extreme, I suppose, would be the kind of election campaigns that we will see in Metropolitan Toronto this year. Most of us are mindful of the newspaper reports of the kind of fund-raising events that certain members of council have entertained and the kinds of moneys that have been spent in the past, for example, to run for mayor of the city of Toronto. I do not know what the estimates will be for this year, but I know that in previous years it has been estimated that people spent between \$150,000 and \$200,000 to \$300,000 to run for that one position.

From that flows, I think, the logical legislative response: to put some limit on election spending. Whether this is a workable limit or not, we will know after the next election. I have no problem with that part of the act, quite frankly. I believe some limit, arbitrary in nature, as we have in our elections, as the federal members have in their elections, is now simply a responsible legislative process to go through.

There are some problems with this bill and the problems all centre on not what the bill is trying to do. If the government had brought forward this legislation last fall, and I know the diversion of it was alluded to in a ministerial statement, if the government had processed the legislation last November, I would have no argument with it today at all. Whether it agreed to all the conditions that I put forward or not, we would have at least given people proper notice. They would have been able to have had ample time to get together a campaign group, to raise money and to do so under the techniques that are provided for under this legislation. If the law had

been proclaimed in January, in my view not one municipal council around Ontario could stand up and say, "We did not know what the law was and we were unable to get ready to carry on a municipal election in November under this new law."

The difficulty is that many of us asked the minister to proceed last fall, and whether it was anybody's fault in particular, or whether just the legislative flow got a little clogged up for a while and it was not possible to bring this forward at that time, he did not proceed.

My option would have been to say I would like to put in place some law of this kind, but I am reminded that different municipalities have a different capacity to respond to this kind of legislative change. I put to the government that in many respects it is creating problems now by proceeding with the legislation at this time.

I believe that the disclosure provisions that are in this bill are a reasonable way to proceed for most municipalities, but I am reminded by many that the clerks in many municipalities have absolutely no capacity to do additional work and that to talk about disclosure provisions and increased responsibility for municipal clerks, as is in this bill, is suitable for some municipalities but not for others. I do not see much of an accommodation here.

I am reminded by many people who are interested in running for municipal office this fall, that this bill is going to become law when they have spent about the last six or eight months doing fund-raising for their campaigns, because they recognize that it is kind of tough to raise money for municipal election campaigns during the months of July and August.

Many of them know, quite frankly, that in practical terms if they want to do a little fund-raising they have to do it in the latter part of the winter or through the spring period because in July and August it is kind of tough to get that money together. By the time September and October roll around, really whatever the government might have decided are the campaign periods under this legislation, most municipal politicians will tell the members that the campaign starts somewhere after the kids get back to school at the end of August and proceeds until we have the elections in November.

The pace is a little different and there is not quite as much campaigning in the sense that we are familiar with it, but that is what municipal politics is about. It moves in many of our municipalities at a slightly different pace than our

campaign periods do. It is a little less frantic and perhaps a little more genuine.

I believe, and I want to put this on the record this afternoon too, this is a government acting with good intentions. I know that I for one have called on it to do something about municipal elections and to do something about, for example, disclosure of who is donating because I think that is important.

But I do not think that its provisions under this act have much of a chance to succeed. That is my problem with it. In some municipalities, yes. I believe that there will be some municipal councils that will be very aggressive in pursuing those disclosure statements, but I know that in many municipalities they will not be.

They will not be very aggressive because it would be absolutely silly in that municipality to expect the town clerk to get all these forms put together and to publish all these disclosure statements. I know this too—there are going to be some town clerks who say: "Listen, I have no way of checking the validity of the statement. If you want me to, I can receive this as a disclosure statement from a candidate in a municipal election, but I cannot validate it."

There is a provision in here, an option to have auditors appointed. That may enter into the picture in some municipalities and put a little more professional weight to it. But in many of the municipalities there will be professional clerks saying, "This is a law that I cannot administer," and I think they will be right.

I am growing increasingly concerned, as I see a number of legislative changes to municipal politics flowing through this chamber in the latter part of the spring session, that this could be one of the most confusing municipal elections that we have ever seen in Ontario.

I am concerned somewhat that this kind of detailed change to the process at this date is going to cause even more confusion, and I dare say that there are liable to be a lot more appeals about the election process not being legitimate after this fall's municipal election than we have ever seen before, because the changes proposed in this bill are substantive and there are a number of them.

There is a practical problem if one reads the bill and notes that the option is in here for a municipality to provide for a tax refund if it is prepared to fully fund that process. That is an option which I am sure this government thinks is probably the best option available. I am not so sure it is, but let me point out a problem for those members who even think that is the way to proceed.

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At this time, most municipal councils are in the final stages of their budgetary process. At this point in our history, municipal councils are finishing up the budgetary process and, in fact, most of them have just gone through a round where they have said to the local rape crisis centre: "Sorry, we'd like to fund you, but we can't. There is no more money in the till." They have finished hearing the representations from ratepayers' groups which said, "Our roads are full of potholes," and the council's response has been, "Sorry, we can't get that into this year's budget."

They have just finished the hard part of the process, which is to say to different groups in their municipality: "We would like to accommodate you, but we can't; we can't build that road. We'd really like to put an arena in there, but we just can't get it into this year's budget; we'll try for next."

Many of our schools boards, having just received the news of provincial grants, are now in a position—I know mine is—of having to deal with those parents who demand school facilities. They are now going to have to turn around and say to them: "The budget is closed. We cannot possibly finance the school construction that we'd like to do next year." That is the position they are in now.

Is it really rational, then, for them to turn around and say, "Next week, we want to set aside \$400,000, \$500,000, \$1 million in municipal tax funds to provide for a tax receipt for election purposes"? Do members think they could do that, if they sat on a municipal council this week and said to a ratepayers' group, "We can't afford to build your road," or "We can't afford to build a school for your children," but the week after that, they can afford to set up a fund which will provide the means that finances, in part, the election campaign this fall? I believe that is a pretty untenable position to be placed in, and that is essentially what the government is doing.

There are a few municipalities—I have heard this argument, and it is a reasonable one too—which, frankly, have been trying for years to get something like this put together by means of a law. They may have sufficient staff to be able to respond, but the provisions of the bill demand almost an immediate response from the municipality if it is to be used in this fall's election. Only those municipalities that have an ability to respond very quickly to substantial changes will be able to do that for this year. I am not aware of any that had the foresight to set aside a portion of

this year's budget to provide for a rebate system for the election contributions. If they did, they may be able to use it this year. In reality, we are probably talking about the next time around, probably four years away.

If that is the minister's intent, I probably would have preferred that he take a little more time and perfect that system a bit. I always try to be pragmatic about this kind of thing. I believe in this kind of stuff. I believe there ought to be limits on spending for municipal campaigns. I believe there ought to be some kind of rebate process, but the government has made it the most difficult thing to defend that I could imagine.

I will tell the minister the truth. I cannot defend the notion that a school board which cannot afford to build its schools should set up a fund that will finance the elections for the trustees. I cannot defend that. Maybe the minister can, but I cannot, as someone who has advocated for a long time that there ought to be some kind of rebate system. If I were on a local council, I could not defend the fact that we could not pave somebody's road or build a sidewalk for kids but we could afford a campaign fund for election expenses. I think that is intolerable.

There will be some municipalities that will be able to muster that argument. I am glad I am not there having to do that. I simply wish the government had followed the advice of its own report on municipal elections. I wish the government had said to itself, "If we can get it done by January 1 of the election year, we will do it, and if we can't, we won't." I think the government would have been better advised to take that route.

I know the minister tried to get this legislation in front of the House last fall, but he could not. I note that what he talked about in his statements last fall is substantially different from what is proposed in the legislation. You can see there really are differences of substance between what he said he intended to do last fall and what he has actually done in this bill. I do not think he would give me an argument that it is exactly the same thing. It is similar and it is going in the same direction, but it is not exactly the same thing. There were changes.

I guess what I am trying to put in front of the House this afternoon is the caution, and I have made this caution, that if it were one simple change being proposed here for this fall's election, there would be no problem, none. Everybody could handle that. The difficulty comes about by means of the fact that we have changed the enumeration system; that is going to

cause additional work and additional problems in setting up the electoral rolls.

Maybe they could have handled that challenge. Now we are changing the whole structure of the election in terms of financing. That is going to cause a second set of problems. I am not terribly confident that they can all handle that. I am aware that some of our municipalities are already sending motions to the minister's office saying: "Enough. No more changes in how elections are held this fall. No more boundary changes. No more rules about election expenses. No more new this or new that. Leave us alone for a while and let us get on with our business." I have some appreciation of the difficulties they are in, because I believe they are going to be compounded.

Finally, I want to get on the record today some concerns I have that I think are going to be real problems, not with the passage of this bill but by the end of the next municipal election. We have had some difficulty in dealing with what I might categorize as contested elections; that is to say, there is always somebody somewhere in Ontario after every municipal election who says the elections were illegal. We do not quite know how to handle that. It is a little awkward.

We have had that problem provincially, and I would remind members that provincially, where there are a lot fewer people running for a lot fewer seats, we do not handle that particularly well either. But I think the government can rightfully anticipate that after this fall's election there will be people in council chambers around Ontario standing up and saying, "Somebody did not file his disclosure form on time and therefore the election is illegal."

People will question the amounts that were disclosed. All they have to do is read the Toronto newspapers. In Toronto, for example, the accounts of how they raise the money are there, the amounts of money are there and the type of event that was held is there. That is all printed; it is all a matter of public knowledge. If the disclosures do not exactly match the stories that are already published in the Toronto papers, there are the grounds for saying the election was illegal.

There will be, I think, a lot of occasions when people will stand up in the council chamber and say, "The clerk didn't do what the clerk is supposed to do under this bill." That is going to put clerks in a difficult position. Also, of course, there will be allegations about how much money was spent. And who will investigate those allegations? I do not know. Somebody will get

that job. It will not be me, thank God, but somebody will get a rather awkward and difficult job.

If one takes the second option, which makes reference to the Commission on Election Finances, the problem I see is that I do not know the practical way to get into that process this quickly. If one does that, then one would say: "Well, the commission will do the investigating. The commission has developed expertise over the years on how to gather together statements and claims and disclosures and do all of that kind of stuff." And it does. I have talked to the commissioner himself, and he feels quite happy that he would get a chance, as I recall, to try this out a bit this fall.

I hope I am wrong, quite frankly. I hope there will not be all of this confusion. I hope that for the first time in the history of Ontario there will be some limits put on people that are practical and real and that they can abide by. If we had done this last fall, I would say there is a real, practical chance this could be done without any great disruption.

The difficulty is that in April of this year, when the bill was tabled, there were not many people around Ontario—I dare say there are not many municipal clerks who have read this legislation and are now getting ready to implement it. I think there will be a general awareness that such legislation is being brought forward, but I doubt very much that they actually know the details or what will be expected from them when this bill passes and becomes law.

I know there are not very many people who will be running in this fall's municipal election who have a real grasp of the details. I know that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, for example, is an organization of municipal councillors that has had the opportunity of seeing this bill and discussing it and I know it has made representation to the minister over the years.

1700

There is not very much that is new in terms of concepts being brought forward here. That really is not the problem, though. The problem is the detail, and the problem is the lateness of the hour in trying to implement it.

I wish I could commend the minister, and I would like to, but I will be as blunt as I can about it. If this were last October and the minister had brought forward the law at that time instead of his statement, we would be in great shape to carry it out, to voice our support for it and to believe, at least with some confidence, that municipalities around Ontario could carry this out for this fall's

municipal elections with a minimal amount of disruption.

Any time you make this type of change, you are going to have some disruption. I do not think that can be avoided, but I believe that the with number of changes that are being proposed under this bill it is not practical to try to implement at this date. If they were brought forward in isolation, without any other changes to enumeration or boundaries or the number of trustees or anything of that nature, then I believe you might stand a chance.

My difficulty is that this is an idea I would like to see implemented, and I see it being brought forward at a time when the chances of doing so without creating a whole lot of other problems are nil. I regret that. I wish very much that we had been able to deal with this last fall when it was first talked about, or talked about in the sense that the minister made a statement on it. I wish, frankly, we had been able to do this when the report on municipal elections was first tabled, because it seems to me that would have given us a lot of lead time.

As I am going through my opposition to the bill this afternoon, I notice the minister and his parliamentary assistant tittering. I want to give them the opportunity to titter and giggle this afternoon, because I want to tell them that this fall, when the municipal elections are over with and the greatest mess we have seen in some time occurs, they will not be giggling on the back benches at Queen's Park. I am going to boot their little tails out the front door. I will let them face everybody who was elected in Ontario, and I will invite them to tour around the province and tell them precisely why they screwed it all up.

It is not because they did not have notice. Their own government-appointed committee tabled its report some time ago. It is not because the Legislature was not able to deal with it. It was able to deal with it as soon as they introduced the legislation. The government has just about enough members to control the agenda in here these days, and if it had wanted this bill last December, the government could have had it. I do not think there is much room for argument there.

I really wish this had not occurred. I really wish it had been brought forward at a date when it could be implemented at a reasoned pace, when the problems that I know are going to be there could be ironed out. I am concerned that this is a good idea gone bad, brought in at the wrong time. My problem with that is that this is not very

practical legislation, from some people's point of view.

To suggest that a municipality, for example, run something like a subsidization program for municipal election campaigns is a difficult notion to sell at the best of times, let alone at a time when municipalities across Ontario are really straining at the seams with financial problems. It is ironic that the economy is booming, but our municipal levels of government have really been loaded up over the years with additional responsibilities and are struggling to try to put together balanced budgets. They are struggling with the idea that property tax increases should be kept to a rather low level.

It is just after an election year for the provincial government, but it is just going into an election year for municipal governments. For some strange reason, as they go into municipal elections, local councils kind of like to keep the tax increases to a minimum. So I doubt there are going to be very many takers on the provisions of this bill which provide for some kind of rebate system.

All of that being said, it is a little difficult to suggest that political contributions to a municipal campaign are not as valid as political contributions to a federal or provincial campaign. I believe they are, and I believe that with a little co-operation on the part of the government, a program could have been worked out that would have been fair.

I believe now that we are going to have different kinds of elections in different municipalities. This is a tough theoretical question to deal with. Is it fair that some municipalities will have a different set of laws governing their election than others? I am not so sure about that. I know the practical problems that are there and they do have to be addressed.

I know that what looks appropriate in downtown Toronto looks ridiculous in Kenora. It just does not make sense in rural Ontario. That, of course, is the quandary that several of us have tried to deal with. Is there a way to develop different approaches that would be more suited to the local municipality? I am not so sure there is great success in meeting that problem head on in this bill.

I do not want to speak at great length, but I did want to put my concerns on the record this afternoon. I feel particularly acutely that I must get those concerns on the record here today because I am already on the record a number of times as having said I believe very much that there should be limits. I believe very much that

there should be some way of addressing contributions to individuals who are campaigning in municipal government, as we do now federally and provincially.

The general thrust or idea behind this bill is one that I personally have called for many times here, and I would not back away from that for a moment. My problem with it solely is that I think the government is doing it at a time when it is not going to work. Of course, for things that I propose, I am pretty anxious that, the first time out, they be successful. I am anxious that they get off on the right foot. I believe this is a good idea at the wrong time and the government is going to have great difficulty.

I hope that in many municipalities the response may go something like this: "This is a reasonable way to proceed. We will not get excited about the contributions part this time around. We will set that aside and maybe try that or some version of that the next time." That may be what they do.

There may be some who have followed these issues for some time and are ready to implement now. I can think of a few municipalities that could do that tomorrow morning; if the government brought all of this package in, they have the internal capacity to respond that quickly and there will not be a problem. The difficulty is that the law applies to every municipality in Ontario, and I am not convinced that many municipalities in Ontario can respond this quickly. I am not convinced that many of them will be able to go through an election period smoothly under this type of legislation. I know they have made their arguments to me very dramatically that they cannot respond; they are not set up to do business on this basis and this is going to cause real problems for them.

We do not want to hold up the bill. I have put on the record this afternoon the concerns that we have. I believe they are valid concerns. I believe those who are tittering and giggling over there this afternoon will not be doing so next December, because by then I believe we will have a large number of problems all related to the holding of municipal elections this fall. They will be problems that will have been caused by legislation such as this. If this bill were brought in by itself, perhaps we could do that, but considering the other changes that have been made concerning municipal elections this fall, I do not think we have much to look forward to except a number of problems.

I know it is not hard to get people like Howard Moscoe, for example, to say, "Great stuff," because Howard is one who has been active in

municipal organizations over the years and has steadily and consistently called for this kind of legislation. I know that many people like Howard Moscoe will be going through the election process in a large municipality. If there are any in Ontario that can handle this type and this amount of change that quickly, the large urban municipalities in and around Metropolitan Toronto should be the ones that can do it.

I think the problem will be that there will also be a number of inherent problems in there, because those elections have tended to be a little on the expensive side. People have been gathering campaign funds for the better part of a year. While in one sense it looks like the administration of the municipality will be able to cope with it, I know that the practical problems that have been alluded to, shall I say, in the Toronto press, about how municipal politicians gather up money for campaign purposes are probably going to be the centre of a major controversy in this bill.

1710

If I were the clerk in one of these municipalities and the option to require audited statements was not exercised, I would be very careful of accepting the statements of candidates, particularly when there are published reports that those statements may not be correct and that those candidates may not quite have followed the guidelines that are put in law. It will be a moot point.

People have asked me this: What if we gathered money quite legally up until April 1 and this bill passes? What happens? Did they break the law even though they gathered the money prior to the law being passed, even though they may well have gathered the money prior to the campaign periods and the time limits set out in this law? That is going to be an interesting problem. I think the lawyers are going to be busy this fall. I think the ministry is going to be very busy this fall.

I think there is going to be trouble with this. I am simply trying to say this afternoon, in voicing our opposition to this bill, that there is trouble here and the government had better be prepared for it. There are going to be difficulties in the holding of municipal elections this fall. They will not all be caused by this one single piece of legislation, but they will be caused by the cumulative effect of changing boundaries, changing the number of representatives, changing the enumeration system, changing the election expenses system and the way that elections are held.

When all of those are added up, it is inescapable: There are going to be real problems trying to hold municipal elections this fall. The problems may happen prior to the election, as people try their best to conform to the legislation. They are more likely to happen after election day, when the lawyers enter the picture and start to examine what all these laws mean, what all these changes mean. If your person loses the election, are there grounds there to challenge the validity of the elections?

I must say that the Legislature of Ontario has certainly given lawyers ample food for thought. There will now be a multitude of new grounds for challenging the validity of the municipal elections this fall.

I regret that we were not able to deal with this legislation and the other bills affecting municipal elections much earlier and to abide by the recommendations of the government's committee on the matter, which essentially said very simply: "If you can't get it done by January 1 in any election year, don't do it." That was good advice. It is too bad the government ignored it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to basically align myself totally with the remarks of the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh) and suggest that the confluence of bills which have been put forward and the timing of those bills are going to cause us enormous problems. Here we are in May, expecting the results of the first enumeration to be completed by May 12 even though most of us have not received anything in the mail as yet. All we have seen are these really peculiar ads on TV of somebody putting his sandwiches into a mailbox as an explication of what people are supposed to take seriously.

We just went through the problems which might be inherent in Bill 109 because of the revisions to Bill 76 which have just been tabled with this House and which, I have just learned, a lot of the French community believes runs counter to decisions made by the federal courts and is basically disenfranchising even more Franco-Ontarians than we already did with the enumeration bill which we have already passed.

The member for Oshawa is perfectly right: What is going to happen is an election which people will dispute, people who are unhappy with how long it takes to be able to determine just exactly what the ward boundaries are going to be in which they are going to run. That is going to put a huge advantage into the hands of incumbents who are well known and have declared themselves as running again, wherever it may be, before others have done. In the long run, what

was a great idea—that is, municipal election reform for the first time—is going to be messed up and leave a sour taste in everybody's mouth because of the way it has been brought in and because the government has not heeded the request for taking a longer period of time to bring this in, which many groups have asked the government to look at.

Mr. Breagh: At the risk of implying that there is an new alliance, I concur with the comments by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston).

Mr. McLean: I am pleased to have this opportunity to speak on Bill 106, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Act.

Once again, I must point out that I am somewhat dismayed and puzzled by this government's timing in bringing in this bill. It is a very important bill that will have serious ramifications on the process used for electing our politicians at the municipal level.

We have the government again trying to ram through legislation that will have an impact on municipal elections in Ontario, and those elections are only six months away. For this bill to take effect in time for the November municipal elections, this Legislature will have to move quickly, and that opens up all kinds of avenues for rush decisions that could ultimately prove harmful to the method we use for electing our representatives.

I believe this to be the grass-roots level of politics in this province, but I fear that this government will once again use its overwhelming majority in this Legislature to push through this bill without sending it first to committee, where all of the bugs and kinks could be worked out.

This government has done this before, and unfortunately there is little we can do to prevent this rush process from happening again. This bill is too important and will radically alter the local election process dramatically only to receive a rubber-stamping by the members of this Legislature. The provisions of this bill are vast and complicated and deserve a thorough airing out in committee.

On Bill 77, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act and the Assessment Act, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario had indicated that they wanted to take the opportunity to register their disappointment that their concern and advice with respect to Bill 77 were not considered during the process of enactment.

The association's proposal was submitted to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins). The leaders of the opposition noted in February that the AMO supported the provisions of Bill 77, with the exception of section 14, and requested that it be deleted from the bill. Section 14 in Bill 77 provides for the changing of the date of nominations of candidates from 21 days to 28 days before the election. The principal rationale provided to the association was that changes were required to accommodate municipalities in northern Ontario who were experiencing difficulties in getting ballots printed.

I am referring to the rush of putting this bill through and I am referring to Bill 77, which was put through in a rush. It was indicated that the association surveyed a number of municipalities in the north and found that there was only one municipality which had advised the Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections; that was what the problem was. Well, it was really inappropriate in the opinion of the AMO, and they did not feel that they had the input they wanted with regard to that bill, which extended the election from 21 days, really, to 28 days.

I will be the first one to say that any legislation aimed at making the municipal election process fair and more accessible to candidates and voters alike is a good idea and something that is required in Ontario. I will also be the first to say that, while some of the amendments may be noncontentious, there are others, such as the limits on campaign contributions and expenses, that need to be fully discussed in committee.

Possible amendments to this bill could include relieving the municipal clerks of all or some of the responsibilities given to them by creating an independent municipal election finance commission instead of depending on the provincial body.

Now, that is only a suggestion, and it is a good example of why we should not be rushing this through the Legislature. Sending this bill to committee for a review would also give us time to determine the reaction of local councils in our ridings to Bill 106. What is this bill aimed at doing? I think that by providing a summary of the amendments I will show members just how vast and complicated Bill 106 really is.

1720

This bill would limit campaign expenses on the basis of a formula related to the number of electors in the ward, the municipality or the school board area in which the candidate is running. For heads of councils, such as reeves or mayors, the formula would be \$5,500 plus 50 cents per elector. For all other candidates the

formula would be \$3,500 plus 50 cents per elector.

I believe that when we are talking about the figures and the costs and what is allowed, we are looking at large urban areas. We are not looking at villages of 1,000 people. I think this bill is aimed at the large urban areas, not the small ones.

This bill will limit campaign contributions to a candidate to \$750 per contributor and will require all candidates to disclose their campaign contributions and spending, which is fair. To me, that part of the bill is fine. This disclosure will take the form of an audited statement for any candidate who raises or spends more than \$20,000; an unaudited statement for any candidate who raises or spends \$1,000 to \$20,000; or a statutory declaration for any candidate who raises and spends less than \$1,000. I still say that, really, the basis of the bill is aimed at the large urban municipalities.

This bill will permit municipalities to establish campaign contribution rebates similar to those in effect for federal and provincial candidates. For those municipalities, the provincial Commission on Election Finances, rather than the municipal clerk, will supervise the declarations and the rebates.

This bill will require two mandatory advance polls rather than the one that is currently required, and the hours for advance and regular polls will be standardized, with all polls open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any elector who is unable to attend the poll will be allowed to vote by proxy, which could get into another complicated problem, which I would hope would be ironed out in committee. Advance polls will be required to be accessible to disabled and physically challenged voters for the elections this November, and all polls will be required to be accessible for the vote in 1991. I agree with that section.

This bill would require all recounts to be conducted by a recount officer, generally the municipal clerk, rather than the courts, and recounts will automatically be undertaken when requested by a candidate within seven days of the declaration of results. If the spread between the winning candidate and the runner-up was less than half a vote per poll, as the minister indicated in his opening remarks, appeals, disputes and irregularities will continue to be dealt with by the courts.

This bill will require elected representatives to maintain their qualifications for the duration of their term, which means a municipal representative seat would be declared vacant if he or she

moved away from the municipality and was no longer eligible to vote in that municipality. I agree with that point.

This is what Bill 106 is supposed to do. Now I would like to outline briefly some of the concerns that I have with the bill.

This bill requires every candidate to be furnished with two copies of the preliminary list of electors who are entitled to vote. I believe this is unnecessary and will create unwarranted costs and administrative difficulties for the municipalities and the municipal clerks.

The legislation requires advance polls to be accessible to the physically handicapped for the 1988 municipal election and requires all polls to be accessible by 1991. I fear that having all polls accessible by 1991 cannot be achieved, given the size of municipal expenditure required to meet this requirement. Why do we not consider decentralization of polls as the most direct solution to this requirement?

The bill states that, effective January 1, 1991, electors will no longer be able to make a declaration at the poll and vote, even though they are eligible but not on the list. This may make life easier for poll personnel, but it flies in the face of attempts to increase voter participation. The provision in this bill for a second mandatory advance poll on the Thursday before polling day is really not necessary in the smaller municipalities scattered throughout Ontario. The current provision, which allows local councils to establish as many advance polls as they feel are necessary, has adequately served the voting public, and I believe one mandatory advance poll is sufficient, especially for the small urban and rural municipalities.

A provision in Bill 106 which I believe will lead to wide-open proxy voting should be tightened up and require the person voting by proxy to be: employed in a business the nature of which involves long-distance travel by railway, air, water or motor vehicle; away on business at his or her employer's direction; ill or physically incapacitated—I mean incapacitated; or a full-time student registered at a recognized educational institution.

While I welcome and support any initiatives that make the municipal election process fair and more accessible to both candidates and voters alike, I find that many of the details, duties and responsibilities contained in some sections of Bill 106 are put upon the candidates and upon municipal election officials.

I feel that only the conduct of an election will fully determine the workability of this legislation

and its practical application to all municipalities and candidates, but I do not believe this bill should be test-driven on an election to see if it works. Instead, it should be sent to committee for fine-tuning and adjustments. It should be safely checked before we turn it loose on the municipal election in Ontario, as I see there are some problems within it.

When the minister first announced the amendments in December 1987, the proposals fell well short of the Johnston report, which recommended moving the municipal election date to October, providing tax credits to people who contribute to municipal candidates and appointing an election finance commission similar to those in the provincial and federal electoral systems.

I guess the minister has had some great revelation from on high, because his tune has changed. It has changed dramatically since last December, and he has now provided for a commission. He has now provided for an optional tax credit rebate system, with the provincial Commission on Election Finances serving in a so-called watchdog capacity.

As members can see from my outline, my summary and my concerns, this bill is filled with too many loopholes and complications for us just to give it a rubber stamp, especially when you pause to consider that the elections it will affect substantially are only six months away.

Because of the vagueness and complicated nature of this bill, we in this Legislature are obliged to send it to committee, and perhaps it can be whipped into a more manageable shape in time for the 1991 municipal elections. Let us maintain the status quo in 1988 and strive for a bill that can be implemented before 1991. I am talking about a bill that will truly make the municipal election process really fair and accessible to both candidates and voters alike without turning Ontario's municipalities into mini-states of chaos.

Section 166 of the bill talks about the local campaign expenses in detail. It goes on and it talks about the auditors. It states in subsection 168(1):

"Every candidate, at the time of appointing a chief financial officer"—every candidate in the province, when they appoint a chief financial officer—"shall appoint an auditor licensed under the Public Accountancy Act and shall immediately notify the commission of the full name and address of the auditor."

The government is putting the people in the small urban and rural parts of Ontario in a

situation they have never been used to before. They may live 40 miles from the closest town, they are in rural Ontario, they want to be candidates and now they find that they have to have a chief financial officer and, in turn, they have to have a licensed public accountant. I see that as being totally unacceptable in this bill, and I am referring to that part which certainly indicates to me it is for the large urban areas in this province.

1730

Subsection 169(1) says, "The chief financial officer of every registered candidate shall, within six months after polling day, file with the commission..." Does the government think people in rural Ontario, in the small rural municipalities, are going to want to go through going to town? Who is going to pay for the cost of this auditor? They are not used to this. I find it unacceptable that they would have to do that.

When we get into section 170, where we talk about surpluses, it goes on to state that if you do not use your surplus, it is lodged with the clerk and he keeps it until the next election. If you do not run in the next election, that money is then turned over to the clerk of the municipality. Everybody has already got their tax receipts. What is the municipality going to do with that money?

When the government is dealing with a bill that has approximately 54 or 55 pages in it, introduces it on April 5, comes in here and wants second reading in the first week of May and wants to have it in place within six months for an election, I find that totally unacceptable. I think the government will find that most municipal politicians across this province at the present time will find it unacceptable too, because there would not be 10 per cent of them who know what it going on here. There is not 10 per cent of them who know that the government has extended the election period from 21 to 28 days. How many times can you shake hands in a village of 1,000 people? You have a month to do it? I find that unacceptable.

I think I have had my input on the bill and I am pleased to have had the opportunity to do it.

Mr. Wildman: I listened attentively to my friend's comments and I found them most enlightening but I do think one comment he made is somewhat extreme. To suggest that there should be provision made when voters are decapitated, I think, is really to go a little far. I would think that to decapitate a voter would certainly incapacitate him.

Mr. Callahan: I would like to indicate that in some of the comments that were made by the member with reference to small communities—I have to suspect that he is saying that there are no public accountants in those communities. He is suggesting that the process be delayed. I suggest that the process has been delayed, probably 42 years too long.

When one recognizes the fact that people who are committed to the public trust in performing their functions perhaps are required to seek contributions from sources which may prove to be a conflict for them somewhere down the line, the people who are the real losers in that respect are the people of Ontario. I think there is sufficient use of this, through the recent provincial and federal campaigns, that everyone in Ontario who is running for public office should have sufficient understanding of it to be able to recognize that and to be able to comply with it.

I can remember the first election I ran in, in 1969. It cost me exactly \$142, so you certainly did not need a great deal of auditing to do it.

I recognize what the member is saying, but I think that, in the long run, it is time, it is time, it is time, and this bill should be enacted in order to provide for no possibility of people's being either said to have a conflict—justice should not only be done, but appear to be done.

Mr. Breagh: Just to give chapter and verse to one practical problem, there are no accountants in many small Ontario communities. Those of us who were born and raised in rural Ontario will tell the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) that we do not have accountants in many of our small hamlets and villages and rural areas.

There are accountants available. There is no question about that. If you want to travel 50 miles, or 100 miles in some cases, to get to them, you can. The honourable member who spoke is from a part of Ontario that is in many respects a rural part, and his experience in municipal politics is in a rural area. I would like him, when he is responding, perhaps to convey to the member for Brampton South what it is like to campaign in municipal politics in a part of the province that is not strongly urbanized.

Maybe that is one of the problems we have to face here, that we come from different backgrounds and different experiences and this is a huge province, geographically and demographically much different from one end to the other. It is difficult to draft a law on this type of topic which you really can apply.

I think that the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) is one member here who has municipal experience and who can perhaps give us a better idea of the practical ramifications of what is being suggested in this bill. It is not that people are opposed to the basic concepts that are being proposed here. That is not the question we are discussing at all. What we are worried and concerned about is how practical it is and whether it can be applied to this year's municipal election.

Mr. Wiseman: I was not going to say anything about this bill but I think—

An hon. member: You were provoked.

Mr. Wiseman: Yes, I was provoked by the member for Brampton South, who comes from a very rich area where there are a lot of accountants, as there are lawyers, I suppose, too, and they love making money out of little people out in the rural area. We all know what it cost us for accountants to audit our books after the last election. We are probably looking at \$1,000 or more. People who are running in many of these small municipalities may not have spent as much as the member for Brampton South on the election.

Then the government is telling them that maybe they are going to have to have an accountant and pay somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$500 to \$1,000 just to be able to run. With all the other roadblocks that we are throwing at them, I am afraid that many people out there who give of their time in these small communities will say: "To heck with it. It is costing us too much money." The minister comes from one of those small communities that has many rural parts in his riding and I feel he should be more sensitive to that.

Sure, we want to have things audited but, by golly, to say you have to have an auditor to do it, and he must be a commissioned auditor rather than somebody who is good at keeping books, I think is wrong. Furthermore, when I was out for a minute, I was just talking to a representative of one of the largest municipalities in Ontario and he went right along with what the member for Oshawa had said earlier, that it is going to cause a nightmare, with the money he has in his hope chest, to run in the next election. How is he going to cover off that?

Mr. McLean: I am very pleased that the member for Brampton South got up and spoke briefly because, really, what he did was make the point that I have been talking about here for about 20 minutes. The very point that I have been talking about is that many in the large urban

population have no idea what the biggest majority in the 838 or 839 municipalities in this province have to go through. They have not a clue, and that is the problem.

The problem is that they have drafted Bill 77, they have drafted this Bill 106 and they are not sure—

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Why don't you read it?

Mr. McLean: I have read it very thoroughly. The minister asks me why I do not read it. I have probably read it better than he has because he has probably just been briefed by his staff, who drafted it not knowing what goes on in rural Ontario. I say to the member for Brampton South that is exactly the point I was trying to make when I mentioned in my remarks that you may have to go 40 miles to get an auditor. That is going to happen in a lot of cases in Ontario, and it is for sure.

The comments that were made, and what the member for Oshawa has just indicated, also support what I have been saying. This bill, if it is not done properly, will be a disaster. As I said, probably not 10 per cent of the politicians in Ontario today, knowing what is in this bill, knowing that it is being brought forward and knowing that they will have to go and get an auditor, will want to run this fall. How many people who want to run this fall will say, "If I have to go through all this, I am not going to bother"? There are going to be lots of them who will do that. The government is catering to the large urban areas and, to me, that is not what the intent of this legislation should be.

1740

Ms. Bryden: My colleague the member for Oshawa has set forth some very compelling reasons why we in this party are opposing this bill. He has pointed out many of the flaws in this long-overdue reform of our municipal electoral system. He has warned this House that the government has so bungled the process by its procrastination and by not having the opportunity for any proper public hearings of a sufficiently broad nature that the province-wide municipal elections will be badly messed up, or may be. They may be the most messed-up elections that this province has ever experienced.

As my colleague says, there may be all sorts of court challenges to the results because of the uncertainties and ambiguities in the bill. There may be challenges and recounts because of the hastily conceived new system of enumeration being put in at the same time under Bill 77. There may be elections which will be invalidated by the ambiguity of sections and lack of information

provided to municipal clerks running the elections. There may be challenges from electors who feel that they have not been properly enfranchised.

Because we have waited so long for municipal election reform and need it so badly, we find it very difficult to vote against the bill, however flawed it is, but if we feel that we must express our strong opposition to this kind of legislative bungling and procrastination, then I think we are duty bound to vote against it. Those who do vote for it will have to be ready to assume responsibility for the unholy mess in our municipal elections which we are predicting.

We in this party introduced many calls for electoral reforms over the past 20 years. We moved motions and had them debated in private members' hour. I myself introduced such a motion several times for a proper municipal election bill which would provide for the same kind of electoral processes as we have at the federal and provincial levels.

Over those 20 years, there was no response from the Progressive Conservatives during their period in government. They were prepared to leave us with an electoral system which was not fair, which was open to charges that there could be corruption and there could be influencing of candidates. There was no disclosure to indicate from what sources the candidates received their support.

At the provincial and federal level, we have recognized that fair elections depend on three principles. We must have limits on expenditures. If one candidate can spend \$100,000 and another only \$15,000 because of his means, then it is not a fair election. Second, there must be limits on contributions. If there are opportunities for individuals and companies to provide sums of money which may be so large as to raise questions of their motivation, then it is not a fair election. The axiom of he who pays the piper calls the tune comes into play here. Third, if there is no disclosure of contributions, then it is hard to find out who is paying the candidate's bills and how large are the sums being donated. Those are the three principles of a good and fair electoral system.

This bill starts to move in the direction of implementing those three principles, but the procrastination in bringing it in—it is getting on for three years since the new government came in—is what we are complaining about, because it is going to create such chaos throughout the electoral system in the province.

I have just the one little point raised by the immediately preceding two speakers about the auditors and how smaller municipalities do not usually have an auditor or a person who could fulfil that function on their staffs and have to go out and hire one. I think any auditor's costs should be paid for by the province under the act, as is done under the federal and provincial election expenses acts, for the auditing of the statements that must be submitted. That would at least relieve the smaller municipalities of an extra cost that they have not budgeted for.

I fault the Progressive Conservatives for refusing electoral reform at the municipal level for so many years. They did not seem concerned about our concerns regarding conflicts of interest or possibilities for corruption. But I also fault the Liberals for being so slow in bringing in this reform legislation.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Marion!

Ms. Bryden: To let the municipal election coming up on November 4 be operated on legislation that has been in effect for less than six months is really irresponsible. Actually, to let the various candidates build up war chests in the period before January 1, 1988, without any controlling legislation on either the amount supporters can contribute or the amount they will have to disclose is of course extremely irresponsible, I say to member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway). That is exactly what has happened in Toronto. We understand from the press, which has done considerable investigative reporting on this, that many of the incumbent candidates, or even ones who are contemplating being candidates, have built up big war chests in the period—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Listen, I read Robin Sears's assessment of this legislation on the weekend. Can there be any more authoritative comments on its greatness?

The Deputy Speaker: Order please.

Ms. Bryden: Our position has been debated at length, and we have made the decision in caucus that we must draw attention to this very flawed legislation.

Another disadvantage of the procrastination and the delay is that potential candidates at both municipal and school board levels are not able to start raising funds for their election campaigns until they know whether there will be a rebate system, until they know what the limits on contributions will be and until they know what the rules generally will be. That is a great defect in this legislation and puts many candidates at a

great disadvantage. In fact, they cannot really plan their election campaigns.

I question very much whether courts will allow the retroactivity in the limit on spending that may be adopted if this bill is enacted, because they will say, "How can you say there will be disclosure of amounts contributed before the bill was in effect? How can you limit amounts given if some of them were given before the bill went into effect?" The question is also, can they be counted as expenditures if some of the money was spent before the bill went into effect? That is one of the great flaws in this bill.

Second, I fault the Liberals for ducking the only fair solution to the demand for treating all municipal electors in the same way with regard to tax rebates on contributions. Instead, the Liberals have done as they are doing in the Sunday shopping laws. They are resorting to local option on the matter of tax rebates, but their motives in this seem quite different. They are in effect ducking out and saving themselves money, because the rebates are going to have to be provided out of municipal tax sources—property tax—or other municipal sources.

1750

It is great for the provincial Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) to pass this proposal on as a local option to the municipalities, but it is murder for municipal treasurers who have just finished their budgets for 1988 and have probably not made any provision for a tax rebate system. It may be that the rebates would not be claimed and paid until 1989, because there will be a period of reporting before applications are processed. How would you as a candidate like to face the electorate with the proposal that you are going to put in a tax rebate system that may require an increase in municipal taxes in 1989? It is not a very popular platform on which to run.

The provincial Treasurer, in tossing this to the municipalities in the way of costs, is really following the same practice he apparently learned from his predecessors in office. They always switched as many expenses as they could to the local taxpayer and then went out and spent high, wide and handsome at the provincial level.

The provincial Treasurer, with his \$1 billion of new tax revenue, could surely have put in some money for some income tax rebates under the municipal system. He should of course also have got the federal Minister of Finance on side to treat municipalities the same way as federal and provincial election systems are treated, having federal and provincial tax rebates. The provincial Treasurer could well have afforded it with that

great budget grab he has made this year. But no, he has other ways of spending it, rewarding the corporations and things of that sort. That is the second great fault in the bill.

The third is the rejection of the idea that is behind a proper system of tax rebates; that is, that there should be encouragement to the small contributor so that there will be more contributions from small contributors and so that candidates will not be beholden to a few big contributors. The limits on spending and contributions will help to some extent, but if you do not have the tax incentive to make contributions, you will not get as many of the small contributors digging deep in order to help make elections more democratic and to relieve the candidates of being so dependent on the big contributors.

That is the third flaw in the legislation. Without a province-wide system of tax rebates, there is not going to be a democratization of contributions to candidates and operation of election campaigns on a democratic basis.

Really, what the Liberals are doing is letting the municipalities choose whether their electors will get the kind of tax rebate system that we have at the federal and provincial levels or that some municipalities will have at the local level. It is grossly unfair.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Is it? In Wawa? Do you think it is unfair in Wawa? I don't think it is.

Ms. Bryden: I think the people of Wawa require a rebate just as much as anybody else if they put up their hard-earned money for election purposes.

I want to say that these are the reasons we have decided to vote against this bill, and I suggest that those who vote for it should remember that they are taking the responsibility for a very flawed system. It is regrettable that this seems to be the choice we are faced with at this time. We have decided that we want to express our opposition to such badly bungled legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Any questions and comments on the member's statement? If not, do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. McCague: It is a pleasure to speak on this bill. Just so that the minister is not uneasy, I would like to first congratulate him on many of the things he has brought in in this bill.

The member for Brampton South says it is 42 years—now 45 years—too late in coming. Be that as it may, that riding was not very big 42 years ago, or 45 years ago, and probably no changes were necessary at that particular time.

I can think of one change that would be a good idea right at this particular time and he might happen to know what that is.

Mr. Smith: Expand on that.

Mr. McCague: He is quite expansive himself.

The member for Oshawa has a very good perception of all this, especially when he comes from an area of the province that is quite a large urban area. I happen to come from an area that is half rural, half urban, as does the minister. A lot of the things that are in the bill, while they may be acceptable for the large urban areas, are not the same for the rural areas.

I know the minister is going to get up and tell me that a lot of the things that are in the bill are permissive. And with that nobody can disagree. If you can read, you can tell that it is permissive.

There are a couple of things that have not been mentioned today that I have a lot of problems with. Number one, there have been a lot of volunteers, and whether the member for Brampton South liked Bill Davis or not, we talked for years about voluntarism, and voluntarism has served this province well for many, many years. There are still many politicians out there who are volunteering their time. I suggest that a bill like this is intimidating to people like that. There are people with money who have different interests from those people who are really, truly interested in serving the people they seek to represent. In that regard, I think what the minister is proposing here does pose a difficulty for those kinds of people.

However, the really important point in this whole thing is the recommendation the minister

received from the Johnston committee, as some people like to call it, where it told him that he should not be tampering with any acts in an election year and that minor changes should not happen for at least six months prior to an election.

That recommendation, which I considered to be the most important recommendation of all the ones they made to the minister, he seems to have ignored. I consider that in this regard he has erred. He is putting Bill 77 and Bill 106 upon them. Another minister is doing Bill 125. We do not know yet what other tricks the minister has up his sleeve, but everything he has up his sleeve I think is going to be a trick on the municipalities.

It is another thing like Sunday shopping. He does not know what to do with it, so he dumps it on the municipalities in a permissive way. Look at the similarities. The government does have a tendency that any question raised in this House is either a federal matter or a municipal matter. Obviously, there have not been enough things put on the municipalities, so the minister is proceeding to put more on them right at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I have several more things I wish to say on this bill. It being close to six o'clock, I move the adjournment of the debate.

On motion by Mr. McCague, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| Adams, Peter (Peterborough L) | Fontaine, Hon. René , Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L) |
| Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP) | Fulton, Hon. Ed , Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L) |
| Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L) | Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L) |
| Beer, Charles (York North L) | Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C. , Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L) |
| Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L) | Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP) |
| Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L) | Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L) |
| Bradley, Hon. James J. , Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L) | Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP) |
| Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC) | Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP) | Hart, Christine E. (York East L) |
| Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L) | Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L) |
| Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Hošek, Hon. Chaviva , Minister of Housing (Oakwood L) |
| Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L) | Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC) |
| Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L) | Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC) |
| Caplan, Hon. Elinor , Minister of Health (Oriole L) | Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L) | Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L) |
| Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G. , Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L) |
| Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L) | Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L) |
| Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L) | Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L) |
| Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L) | Kwinter, Hon. Monte , Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L) |
| Conway, Hon. Sean G. , Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L) | Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L) | LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L) |
| Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Leone, Laureano (Downsview L) |
| Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L) | Lipsett, Ron (Grey L) |
| Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC) | Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L) |
| Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC) | MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L) |
| Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC) | Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Curling, Hon. Alvin , Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L) | Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L) |
| Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L) | Mancini, Hon. Remo , Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L) |
| Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L) | Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC) |
| Eakins, Hon. John F. , Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP) |
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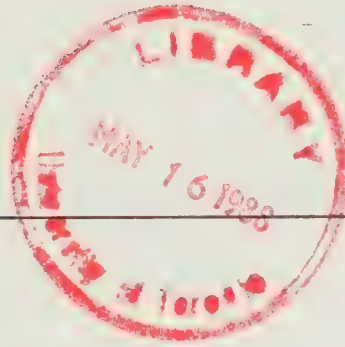
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Government
Publications

No. 57



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, May 4, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 4, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

JOHN WEIR FOOTE

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, I ask for unanimous consent of the House to pay tribute to Lieutenant-Colonel John Foote. Do I have it?

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Agreed to.

Mr. Pollock: Colonel John Foote passed away at his home in Cobourg on Monday. He was the only chaplain in the Canadian Army ever to win the Victoria Cross. He won that medal for his efforts at the Dieppe raid.

During the Dieppe raid, Colonel Foote carried the wounded back to the landing-craft, and then when the landing-craft left, he remained behind actually to care for the wounded and minister to the dying. He also was a prisoner of war for the rest of the period of the war and helped to keep morale high in the prisoner-of-war camps.

He was born in Madoc township, received his education there and was eventually ordained as a Presbyterian minister. After the war he came back to Canada and served at many different jobs. One of them was as a member of this Legislature from 1948 to 1957. He served as Minister of Reform Institutions from 1950 to 1957.

Also, he was a very modest man. I can recall listening to an address by Colonel John Foote in Norwood, where he had lived for several years. He was a very modest man and he never took credit for actually winning the Victoria Cross. In fact, he actually gave that Victoria Cross to his regiment, the Royal Hamilton Light Infantry, because he felt the valour of that day had been shared by all.

I ask all members of this assembly to join with me in expressing our sincere condolences to Colonel Foote's wife, Edith Sheridan, and their family.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: May I, on behalf of the government, join the honourable member in expressing our concern for Colonel Foote's family and also our appreciation for his service to the nation and to the people through this Legislature.

I can recall meeting him when I visited the Legislature during the 1950s. My father was a member before me, in opposition in those days. As a matter of fact, my father considered Colonel Foote a very good friend indeed and always had the highest regard for his interventions here in the House and his work as a cabinet minister in, as it was in those days, the Ministry of Reform Institutions.

I just happened to be chatting with the chief government whip, who is somewhat younger than I, and he said he recalls the story of Colonel Foote, VC, having a prominent part in his grade 6 reader, a story which was a great example to all young people.

There is no doubt that Colonel Foote's life, his career and his record of service are an outstanding example to all citizens, but particularly those of us who have the honour to serve as members of this House.

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words.

Our hearts go out to Colonel Foote's family. It is, as the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has well said, a life that will serve as an example to a great many young people. It is perhaps difficult for a generation raised in 1988 to recall the real personal heroism and sacrifice that was involved on the part of those who took part in the Second World War and particularly those who took part in the raid on Dieppe.

I want to join all those in the House who share in the loss of Colonel Foote. We very much want to send to his family our very best wishes and our thoughts for them. Let us also perhaps say, even in this time of their great loss, that while this is a time for mourning, it is also a time for celebration, for his truly was a remarkable and courageous life.

Mr. Speaker: On your behalf, when Hansard is printed, I will as usual send a copy of your words of sympathy to the Foote family.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

BRUCE CURTIS

Mrs. Grier: Many Canadians this week are tying on yellow ribbons to celebrate the return to Canada of Bruce Curtis.

Bruce is a young man from Nova Scotia who five years ago was sentenced to 20 years in a New Jersey prison for a killing many people believe was an unfortunate accident. His return to serve the remainder of his term in Canada is a tribute to the determination and loyalty of his family and hundreds of other people, many of them from Ontario. They stood vigil outside embassies, encouraged Bruce by keeping in contact with him and wrote thousands of letters to the authorities in New Jersey.

I am pleased to be able to make that small contribution. Alexa McDonough, the leader of our party in Nova Scotia, did much more. Politicians of all parties helped in obtaining and implementing an agreement with the United States that allowed his transfer to Canada.

In New Jersey, Bruce was subject to an incredible campaign of petty tyranny. He was refused permission to study by correspondence from Canada. They said he could not mail essays outside the United States. Letters were not delivered to him. He was refused fresh air and exercise for months at a time.

Throughout his ordeal, this young man has shown a remarkable strength of spirit. His transfer represents a triumph for those who refuse to accept something that they consider to be an injustice. It serves as a lesson to all of us that individuals can make a difference.

Bruce, in prison, taught literacy to fellow inmates and wrote most sensitive and moving poetry about his love of this country. Our congratulations go out to the Curtis family, and good luck to him.

WATER POLLUTION

Mrs. Marland: I would like to express my concern about the way the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) has reacted to the pollution of the Metro Toronto waterfront by the Ashbridges Bay sewage treatment plant. He seems to be taking the whole thing very lightly and is depending on his almighty program, the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement, to solve everything. The minister even thinks Metro will have some of its beaches open this summer "more often than in the past."

How can the minister even believe this himself when his own ministry's report is telling us that the Toronto sewage treatment plants are spewing DDT, polychlorinated byphenyls, lead, phosphorus, nitrogen, iron, copper and the wood preservative pentachlorophenol into the lake at levels far above ministry guidelines?

The Metro works commissioner will not guarantee that Metro's beaches will ever be clean, despite the money that is being spent on water pollution controls and improvement to the sewage treatment plant.

This alarming evidence makes it essential for the Minister of the Environment to implement the terms of a resolution brought to this House by this party almost one year ago. Phil Gillies's resolution to expand the MISA program to require pretreatment of waste dumped into municipal sewers by more than 11,000 small industries was passed unanimously by all parties.

The Minister of the Environment has had plenty of time to study this. It is time he got on with the job. The minister must live up to his promises for a change and, to use his own words, "clean up Ontario's waterways by stopping water pollution at its source."

1340

BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

Mr. Lipsett: I am pleased to rise today to acknowledge the efforts of one of the many service clubs in my riding, namely, the Quota Club of Owen Sound and the proclamation by the local municipality that the month of May be recognized as Better Hearing and Speech Month in Grey.

The Quota Club brings to our attention that hearing loss, speech impairment and related language deficiencies are the number one handicap in Grey county, affecting over 5,000 persons. This service club works year-round with the hard of hearing. Its services to the community include furnishing the ear, nose and throat operating room of the new Grey Bruce Regional Health Centre, supplying hearing aids and helping to pay for the teletypewriter telephone services.

During Better Hearing and Speech Month, the club's activities will include a "hearing help" display at the Grey County Mall. Free hearing tests will be offered to the public at their display.

I applaud the efforts of all of those who are providing assistance in this area and also making the general public aware of this communication handicap through Better Hearing and Speech Month.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Reville: I would like to continue with another national Mental Health Week observance.

It is well known that the 10 provincial psychiatric hospitals are falling down around the

ears of the patients who inhabit them and the staff who work in them. The hospitals are understaffed. The hospitals' staff are having extreme difficulty paying attention, as are the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

In the absence of the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston), who I hope will read Hansard on this, I should say there has been an acrimonious three-year dispute between the medical staff at our provincial psychiatric hospitals and the government, which has failed to implement the recommendations of the Burkett conciliation board. In fact, they are so unhappy with the government's lack of response in the area of salaries and working conditions that they have voted to strike or resign, which of course will leave our psychiatric system in a mess that will be even worse than it currently is.

EASTERN ONTARIO FARMERS

Mr. Villeneuve: I want to inform all members, and particularly the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), that this government continues to ignore eastern Ontario totally. There was nothing in the budget for eastern Ontario because the Treasurer thinks the economy of eastern Ontario has improved. There was nothing in the budget for farmers because the Treasurer, again, thinks the farm economy is in great shape. The Treasurer's analysis will come as a surprise to the farm and nonfarm rural poor in eastern Ontario.

Even the Liberal Party's mouthpiece, the *Toronto Star*, in a story last Sunday, acknowledged the existence of the rural poor, who live with no running water and often on dirt floors. This government clearly feels that as long as the existence of these people is kept from the urban media, their plight can be safely ignored.

What is even more shocking is that since June 1986, the province has had a report suggesting measures to improve the lives of many of these people. The recommendations are in the report of the Agricultural Council of Ontario dated June 18, 1986—I have a copy of it right here—dealing with the incomes of farmers and their families in Ontario. It calls specifically for the province to encourage regional and rural development, in particular through small and medium-sized businesses.

This budget not only further decreases the mobility of the rural poor through gas tax increases but discourages all business through the retail sales tax hike. This government has no concern for eastern Ontario.

MOTORCYCLE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. Lupusella: Yesterday I joined with the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) to share a most important event. For the first time in Metropolitan Toronto, we are observing Motorcycle Awareness Month. Metro Chairman Denis Flynn read the proclamation on behalf of the Metropolitan Toronto council naming May as the month of motorcycle awareness.

Motorcycles are a popular form of transportation which is constantly increasing. In Ontario, there are nearly 500,000 licensed motorcycle drivers. They use this mode of transportation to get to work and for recreation.

The motorcycle rider is a particularly vulnerable individual. He or she is sharing the road with persons using much heavier vehicles. All are travelling at high speeds. It is essential that we improve the record of injury and fatalities involving motorcycles. During a shorter driving season, motorcyclists account for a much higher number of fatal accidents than do other drivers.

While the government seeks to enact better regulations and education programs and while we step up enforcement measures, we must all recognize our responsibility for a more responsible attitude while driving. In this way we will do more than observe a month where we proclaim motorcycle awareness; we will be on our way to creating a safer driving environment for all people using the road.

CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: Yesterday the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) failed to acknowledge the enormous deficiencies of the corrections system. Inmates in need of psychiatric care are being simply incarcerated when they should be receiving treatment. The use of solitary confinement in segregation cells is not an uncommon practice in the handling of mentally disturbed inmates. There is no opportunity for appeal, and for inmates already identified as having a need for psychological treatment, such confinement is bound to be a trauma.

I urge the minister to address this human injustice. It is unconscionable simply to incarcerate these men and women without treatment. It is also a foolhardy policy, for ultimately these individuals will return to society without any hope of integration and survival, and with every possibility of antisocial behaviour.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

FOREST FIRE

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I was on the scene of the Kenora 14 forest fire yesterday and I would like

to bring the members up to date about that situation.

This fire, which is not under control, is burning near the Whitedog Indian reserve northwest of the towns of Kenora and Keewatin. This fire is about 43 kilometres in length, approximately 26 miles, and up to 10 kilometres wide. Since it started four days ago it has consumed more than 20,000 hectares, about 51,000 acres of forest.

My ministry's fire crews are making every effort to protect human lives and property. On Monday, 460 residents of the Whitedog Indian reserve were evacuated and taken by bus to Gimli, Manitoba, where emergency shelter is being provided in a former air force base. In addition, about 65 cottagers in the Malachi Lake area were evacuated by train to Winnipeg on Sunday. About 10 cottages in this popular recreation area were burned, but our fire crews were able to save more than 250 other cottages in the burned area.

I commend their hard work under very trying conditions. Cottages on Sherwood Lake, Pickerel Lake and Pelicanpouch Lake have also been protected, as was a tourist operation on Cygnet Lake and the Neechy resource centre. In addition, the greenhouse complex on the Whitedog reserve remains unharmed.

There are more than 42 Ministry of Natural Resources fire crews on the scene. We are using eight CL-215 water bombers, including two planes borrowed from Quebec and two from Manitoba. Seven helicopters are also being used to transport crews, carry out emergency evacuations and assist in fighting the fire from the air.

Our crews are today trying to take advantage of slightly cooler temperatures to knock down the head of the fire. The winds shifted yesterday afternoon, and the fire is now moving back east towards Kenora over some of the burned area.

Because of the thick smoke coming from the fire, the Ontario Provincial Police may close the Trans-Canada Highway through the area today. An emergency response team of MNR and OPP officials met this morning to discuss the possible closure of as many as five other roads near the fire.

This province may be facing a terrible fire season. The culmination of several winters with warmer-than-average temperatures and little snow, combined with a warm, dry spring, has left our northern forests, particularly in the northwest, in tinder-dry condition. Kenora 14 is the worst fire Ontario has had so early in the season since 1980. That year, another fire in the

Kenora area, Kenora 23, consumed 300,000 acres before it was extinguished.

1350

Although this province is one of the best equipped to fight forest fires in Canada, we need the public's help in preventing fires from starting. There are currently 43 forest fires burning across the province. What is most alarming is that every single one of them was caused by human carelessness.

Forest fires cost this province an average of \$1 billion every year. Seventy per cent of those fires are caused by people. An unattended campfire, a careless match, a discarded cigarette butt, any one of these careless gestures can lead to the needless destruction of acres of prime forest.

Because of the gravity of the situation, I have imposed a restricted fire zone across most of northwestern Ontario. MNR staff will continue to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the safety and protection of the people and property in northwestern Ontario.

I urge everyone enjoying Ontario's great outdoors to use great caution to help prevent any more forest fires.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I am introducing for first reading today the Planning Amendment Act.

My objective is to streamline the planning process to help municipalities and all interested groups that are looking for ways to provide more affordable housing throughout Ontario.

Indeed, we are all players in this, sharing a major responsibility—governments, private sector and consumers alike.

My ministry is committed to meeting provincial housing objectives. Apart from the amendments, on which I shall speak in a moment, my ministry is also undertaking a range of initiatives to help meet these objectives. For example, we are preparing municipal planning guidelines to help municipalities plan for affordable housing. These guidelines are about residential intensification and meeting the goal of 25 per cent affordable housing in every community.

As well, we are involved in developing statements on housing policy and land use policy.

I would emphasize that my ministry has an important contribution to make in the area of land use planning and the regulatory process. This is why the Planning Act amendments are our priority.

The bill I am introducing today includes several changes to further this government's

priority to help provide housing throughout the province. These changes are, first, recognizing the provision of a range of housing types as a provincial interest. This will enable my ministry to work with the Ministry of Housing to guide and direct municipalities in our collective effort to provide housing. Second, it will reduce the overall time frame for the zoning process to a minimum of 41 days from the current minimum, 65 days. This change reflects our goal to ensure efficiency in the planning process.

An additional change will clarify that the Minister of Municipal Affairs may define a local planning matter to be of provincial interest whether or not a formal policy statement has been declared under section 3 of the Planning Act. This change will ensure that provincial guidelines and other government interests in land uses may continue to be declared matters of provincial interest where appropriate; for example, the restriction of development around airports, or affordable housing initiatives.

The remaining changes of this bill are intended to improve the effectiveness of the Planning Act and do not alter its fundamental principles in any way.

I would reiterate my ministry's steadfast commitment to municipalities and all interested parties looking for ways to provide more affordable housing throughout Ontario.

I would emphasize again that my ministry appreciates the co-operative work required to meet the affordable housing objectives. We have consulted and will continue to consult with municipalities. Less than a week ago, I was with the Premier (Mr. Peterson) at a meeting with the mayors of municipalities in the greater Toronto area to discuss affordable housing. A few weeks before that, cabinet met in Perth for the same reason with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario. This is important work. It shall continue.

Similarly, our work continues with the ministries of Housing and Government Services to meet the urgent need to provide affordable housing throughout Ontario.

RESPONSES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Breagh: I want to reply briefly to the statement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins). I am pleased that he has made a statement about housing today. I am not quite sure what the statement is. The statement seems to indicate that the government intends to introduce some legislation—later on today, I

presume—and that it is considering several other very serious matters that, sooner or later, it will get around to sharing with us.

I am confused somewhat by what is in this brief statement today. For example, the minister says—the one specific thing that one can pick out—he is reducing the overall time frame for the zoning process to a minimum of 41 days from the current minimum of 65 days. That is interesting, but that is not the problem. The problem is not the minimum number of days that are required; it is the maximum number of days that are actually used. It seems to me he has attacked the wrong end of the horse here.

It seems to me it would have been much more sensible for the minister to—

Mr. B. Rae: It depends which end of the horse is up.

Mr. Breagh: I will explain later to my leader which end is which.

It would make much more sense for the minister to announce today that he intends to use his powers under the Planning Act to require that an official plan statement for each municipality simply be that 25 per cent of the new residential construction be for affordable housing than to go on to define that specifically.

There is a good deal of fuzzification here that bothers me. It seems to me that what the minister has said today is that he is going to expedite something, but he is not sure what. I point out to him that we do not have a need for a range of housing sales techniques. If, for example, one is talking about downtown Toronto, surely we do not need to encourage and to expedite the construction and sale of luxury condominium units. Surely he has a clearer focus on the nature of the problem than that.

We will await the specific details, if and when he ever chooses to share them with us. I am happy he made a statement today. I just wish he could have said something when he made that statement.

FOREST FIRE

Mr. Wildman: I welcome the statement by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) regarding the fire situation in the northwest. We indeed face a very serious threat this year because of the low precipitation. I join with other members of the House in congratulating the Ministry of Natural Resources fire crews for the work they are doing to try to protect lives and property, as well as our forest resource, in the Kenora area.

I also join with the minister in expressing our thanks to our sister provinces of Manitoba and Quebec for their assistance. I would have liked the minister to have made clear to the House, though, what involvement Indian people may have in the fighting of the forest fires and what training is being provided to ensure they will be able to protect themselves and their homes during the full fire season this year.

It is tragic that the Islington band on the Whitedog reserve is suffering from this situation and has had to face evacuation. As all of us in this House know that this band, along with the Grassy Narrows band, has suffered probably more from the degradation of the environment than any other group of people in Ontario. It seems that they go through one serious, tragic situation after another. I hope that in protecting their village and in ensuring that they can return to their homes, we will be doing all we can as a province, as a Legislature and as a government to ensure that the community can be rebuilt and that the Islington band can go on to prosper in the future.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Jackson: I wish to comment on the statement by the Minister of Municipal Affairs today in the House. We cautiously and respectfully receive this with some appreciation. It responds to a series of questions that have been raised by this side of the House.

In the absence of the detailed bill and a proper, objective analysis of its impact, it is hard to really comment. However, it is clear that in terms of this government's ability to react to the affordable housing crisis, we are again seeing more of a patchwork approach than a long-term, sound management approach to this matter.

1400

To illustrate the point, I asked the Minister of Municipal Affairs last year about the very point he raises in his statement today, the matter of additional change which "will clarify that the Minister of Municipal Affairs may define a local planning matter to be of provincial interest, whether or not a formal policy statement has been declared under section 3 of the Planning Act."

Last year, we asked him if he would look at the problem of exclusionary bylaws and the fact that they work to discriminate against student housing, all the existing housing stock in this province. The minister said he would get back to us. We have not heard anything concrete from the government on this very critical issue. I will again be tabling additional petitions from the students at McMaster University asking the

minister and the government if they will eliminate these exclusionary bylaws. We ask the minister to clarify soon if this is the kind of item to which he is referring.

It just goes to show. Within a week of advising future home owners in this province that the budget of the Treasurer will have the effect of increasing the cost of an affordable unit in this province by some \$3,000, it is important to note that we are now getting these statements to in some way indicate that the government has a balanced approach or some long-term plan when in fact it does not. We need a proper, comprehensive approach to housing and this critical shortage problem and we ask the minister to participate more aggressively in that debate.

Mr. McCague: One cannot help but be happy about a statement that talks about more affordable housing. However, I am not sure this kind of ivory tower planning is going to work. On the one hand, the minister is telling the municipalities that if they would like to, they can open on Sundays. On the other hand, he is telling them that if he does not like what they are doing, he is going to tell them what to do in the housing field. The minister has a provincial mandate over local autonomy. He is interfering in every way possible, or so it would seem.

FOREST FIRE

Mr. Pollock: I can appreciate the Minister of Natural Resources going to Kenora to view the fire situation there, and let us hope these fires can be brought under control. I do not doubt for one minute that the Ontario Provincial Police is doing everything possible to try to prevent any loss of life and I am sure those firefighter crews are working around the clock to actually put out those fires.

One thing I am a little surprised at is the portion of the statement on page five that says, "This province is one of the best equipped to fight forest fires in Canada." Why is it not the best? We are the richest province in Canada and we have a large timber reserve, so we should be the best equipped. I feel that only two planes from Quebec and only two planes from Manitoba are not enough for a situation like this, with one of the worst forest fires in a decade. We should be doing more, and one would ask, why was this area not sealed off a little more quickly to prevent this fire from spreading?

Mr. Harris: It might be appropriate, as we commend the firefighters and the equipment, to congratulate former Premier Bill Davis. Two of these CL-215 water bombers are on the scene

there, fighting, because Bill Davis said: "No, I don't want a jet. I want water bombers for the north."

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Oral questions, the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. B. Rae: It was a fair way down the road to Damascus before that conversion took place, if I recall correctly.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Treasurer. I wonder if his officials have made him aware of a very harsh fact in his budget. Again, I am sure that if he had to do it all over again, he would do it differently and I am sure he might want to reflect on it before the House finally approves the budget bills.

I know he will be as shocked and surprised as I was to learn, when we had time to consider the budget, that for a taxpayer with a total income of \$20,000 a year, when you include provincial income tax, tax credits and rebates, health premiums, the retail sales tax and the gas tax, the Ontario taxpayer pays more than a taxpayer in any other province in Canada. In the wealthiest province in Canada, we are sticking it to our poorest citizens more harshly than any other jurisdiction. How can the Treasurer explain that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not accept those numbers, and actually, the first time the New Democratic Party put them forward, it at least had the good grace to say that Newfoundland taxpayers were at least minusculely worse off than us.

Mr. B. Rae: Before your budget.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No. We would be very, very glad to review those numbers, but the honourable member would certainly be aware that with the tax credits that are built into the budget, our taxpayers paying personal income tax pay at a rate that is the second-lowest in Canada if they are in the low-and middle-income—

Interjections.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: OK; all right; our health premiums. As far as those are concerned, we have substantial improvements for the low end of the income scale. As a matter of fact, just under 400,000 of our citizens get free Ontario health insurance plan care completely, and of course all the senior citizens who live in this province get the excellent OHIP care at no cost whatsoever, as

well as free drugs. There is a wide range of programs that the honourable member has not factored into what he considers to be such an explosive statement.

Mr. B. Rae: I will be glad to share our analysis with the Treasurer. The tax is based on figures that are publicly available, and whatever figures are publicly available, we have used: In British Columbia, \$1,527; in Alberta, \$1,213; Saskatchewan, \$955; Manitoba, \$916; Ontario, \$1,834; and with the provinces to the east of us, Quebec, \$1,228; New Brunswick, \$1,579; Nova Scotia, \$1,502; Prince Edward Island, \$1,420; Newfoundland, \$1,794—less than Ontario, which is leading the pack even when you roll in the tax credits, when you include everything on the table. When you put it all together, they are sticking it to our poorest citizens more harshly than any other government in this country. How does the Treasurer explain it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not accept those numbers and the honourable member would be aware, in addition to the facts I gave him a moment ago, that the retail sales tax, even at the level of eight per cent, is still lower than every province to the east of us, and for example, although this probably was not factored into the honourable member's numbers, we have the cheapest beer in Canada.

Mr. B. Rae: Marie Antoinette said, "Let them eat cake." The Treasurer says, "Let them drink beer." The reality is that they still get stuck when it comes to taxes.

The Treasurer, who has done about as much for restraint in this province as Henry VIII did for restraint some few hundred years ago, has said—he should know—that he has raised \$12 billion in a tax grab since he took power in 1985. It would have cost the government less than one per cent of that, \$100 million, to eliminate all income taxes for people who are at or below the poverty line in Ontario. Why could the Treasurer not at least have done that in this budget? With \$12 billion in extra revenue since this government took power, all it would have cost was less than one per cent of that. Why could the Treasurer not have done that?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member is getting himself all excited simply because he has tunnel vision. It is not possible for him to look at the good that was done with the money contributed to the provincial Treasury by the taxpayers of this province.

The honourable member will know that we have improved the quality of education at the post-secondary level. We have new initiatives at

grades 1 and 2. We are spending a lot more money on improving the environment; both the minister and his chief critic are aware of that. We have a new allocation to improve our roads and public transit, and so the list goes. To be subjected to criticism for having taxes that are too high, and inadequate services, seems to me on the face of it to be totally unfair.

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Mr. B. Rae: I am sure the Minister of Health will heartily approve of the Treasurer's priorities in terms of where spending is going, who is spending what and who is getting it.

Mr. Speaker: Question to the Minister of Health?

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the Minister of Health a question that again relates to the letter from Dr. Martin Barkin, MD, BScMed, MA, FRCSC, the Deputy Minister of Health, who wrote to the hospitals in such encouraging terms on April 21, 1988.

I wonder if the minister is aware that as a result of the letter that has been received, the Wellesley Hospital has said to us when we asked some questions, and I am quoting, "There will be a reduction in services, but we are not sure to what degree."

St. Joseph's Hospital in London has a deficit of \$2.6 million. Their review indicates that the hospital is not at fault. They are looking at cutbacks in some services; for example, closing beds in coronary care, intensive care and neonatal intensive care.

Is the minister aware that this is what is happening as a result of the letter that was sent out by Dr. Barkin and as a result of the message from her government that since it cannot stop itself in any other area—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. B. Rae: —what is it going to do is put a cork on the steam kettle when it comes to hospitals?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think it is important, when we discuss this subject, to know that it is our intention to ensure that essential services are maintained in all the hospitals of this province. As well, it is our goal, as stated as long ago as April 1987 by the previous minister when he announced a special allocation to assist hospitals, that we expect them to submit realistic and balanced budgets. We intend for them to do that and will assist them in every way to ensure fiscal

responsibility in the management of our health care system.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister cannot have it both ways. I want to get the minister to focus again on what the government is doing. On the one hand, the government is saying how concerned it is with respect to the provision of services. On the other hand, it is telling hospitals that they have to cut. That is what she is saying; she is using the words "service realignment."

Does the minister not realize that when she cuts services in hospitals, she is cutting the access that people have to health and that it is a very dangerous thing to do?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition that the majority of the hospitals in this province operate with balanced budgets; indeed, some 25 per cent of them have surplus budgets. We intend, through our reviews of those that have experienced difficulty, to share the expertise of those that have managed over the last few years to balance their budgets.

We believe in the funding of hospitals fairly. Our two-pronged approach—to look at those that are having problems and to reallocate or look at the rational use of resources in our system—is a fiscally responsible approach and one which, as we offer advice and assistance to hospitals, will allow them to provide services to their community that have been well planned and are necessary.

Mr. B. Rae: How can a hospital under the minister's jurisdiction, under the regime which she is establishing, now possibly offer more or better service? How can it shorten a waiting list, how can it provide an operation any earlier, how can it make sure that someone can get into intensive care if it is forced to cut back on intensive care beds, forced to cut back on neonatal service, forced to cut back? Because the letter from her ministry to the hospitals in this province has stated explicitly now that it is the policy of the government of Ontario that staff hiring should be curtailed and that services should be "realigned," which we all know is a euphemism for "cut back". That is precisely what it is. It can have no other meaning to those hospitals that are getting this message.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First of all, realignment does not mean cut. Second, neonatal and cardiac intensive care are part of life-support funding systems and not included in global budgeting. Third, the member knows, as does every member in this House, that our system is designed to ensure that those who require it, and have

life-threatening situations and emergencies, receive priority.

We are committed to maintaining the fine, quality health care services that we have and also to ensuring that we have fair funding of our hospitals and fiscal responsibility. If the member is suggesting that we should have open-ended hospital funding, he should stand up and say so.

Mr. Wildman: No.

Mr. Eves: That's not what we are suggesting at all. Do you have some inflammation in your ear, or what?

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. B. Rae: She gives 18 per cent to OHIP and turns around and talks about what she is doing to the hospitals. It is a sick joke.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: My question as well is to the Minister of Health and it relates to the same question. It is in regard, of course, to the letter that was sent by her deputy minister concerning the whole issue of deficits.

I am disturbed to hear the minister in response to the Leader of the Opposition talk about the good guys and the bad guys in terms of surplus and deficits. It appears that the minister is putting them in two categories; those that have a deficit are obviously wearing the black hats and are bad guys and those that have a surplus are obviously showing the way and acting as an example.

I would like to ask the minister whether she will clearly state—and I did not hear a clear answer to the question raised by the Leader of the Opposition relative to the concern we have about deficits—if it is the intention on the part of her ministry to cover the operating deficit of a hospital when it is clearly indicated that deficit has been created through no fault of the hospital itself.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I have said before on a number of occasions, it is our goal to see that the hospitals provide the highest-quality service with the greatest possible efficiency. To achieve this aim, we notified them about one year ago that we expected them to submit realistic and balanced budgets. We have begun a review of those 22 hospitals that have had recurring deficits. The information we glean from those reviews, which are ongoing right now in the ministry, will allow us to ensure that hospitals are fairly funded.

Mr. Brandt: St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia has the same problem as St. Joseph's Hospital in London, the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, and many others throughout this province. In many

instances they have had outside audits completed as of this date. The Ministry of Health is aware of the results of those audits.

It has been demonstrated that St. Joseph's Hospital in Sarnia cannot run any more efficiently than it is at the present time unless it reduces service. It has identified every cost-saving measure that could be used except, at this point in time, a flat-out reduction in service, which I guess the minister would have to approve. They are still going to run a deficit because of the increased workload in the hospital in question and also because of increased drug and surgical supply costs, just to name a few of the things that are making up the deficit they are now realizing.

The deficit at this particular hospital is running between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Will the deficit be covered—that is all the hospital wants to know—or is it going to have to cut back service?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I have said a number of times in this House, we are conducting a two-pronged review. The first part is a review of the 22 hospitals that have had unique and chronic problems. The hospital the member mentioned is one of those. What we learn from that review will allow us to assist those hospitals to maintain the essential services and to work more efficiently and also to see why there are those that have repeated deficits. There are others; I do not agree that there are white hats and black hats. I believe we all have the same goal, and that is the provision of services in as fiscally responsible a manner as we can and being as efficient as possible with the use of our resources.

We will assist those hospitals. The information we obtain will allow us to bring predictability into hospital budgeting and to make sure the communities have the essential services they require.

Mr. Brandt: There are really only, as far as I see it, two options available to a hospital such as St. Joseph's if the deficit is not covered. One that I have already suggested to the minister is to cut services. The second—and this option is in fact being exercised by some hospitals at this time—is to enter into a leaseback deal with private leasing firms such as our universities are now contemplating with respect to their library systems. This leaseback arrangement has now been carried out by three London hospitals. Which, in fact, does the minister prefer? Does she want a cutback in service, which she indicates is not a viable option being entertained by her at the moment, or does she want to see our hospitals selling their equipment, purchased, I might add, by the Ontario taxpayers, and having this equipment

then leased back through private leasing firms? That is really the only option available to them.

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Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the leader of the third party is being simplistic in his approach of only two options. In fact, what I am hoping will come out of the 22 reviews and the total review of our hospital remuneration system is a number of options as to how we can help hospitals to ensure they are as efficient as possible. We are looking right now at the implementation of computer information systems to give hospitals the information they need to be able to manage their resources.

I believe the leader of the official opposition and the leader of the third party, as well as all members of this Legislature, have the same goal as I do; that is, to make sure that all the institutions in this province are operating at peak efficiency, delivering the highest possible quality services to their communities.

Mr. Brandt: The members of the government can applaud that, but in fact the hospitals are being put in a position that is absolutely untenable for them at this time, and in fact, they cannot provide the service the minister is guaranteeing is going to be provided.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to which minister?

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier. It relates to comments made by the Premier yesterday with regard to special legislation which he suggested he might be bringing in to provide workers at the SkyDome construction site if there is a work stoppage at that particular site.

In light of the fact that he is prepared to undertake some sort of measure in order to provide that the construction work be carried out at the SkyDome, can the Premier tell this House why he is willing to take that action and yet not willing to legislate an end to the Wheel-Trans strike?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I did not say that. That is absolute nonsense.

Mr. Brandt: The Premier was reported as having said that.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have no idea what a report is saying, but I did not say it.

Mrs. Marland: Yesterday in this House, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) assured us that every member in this House cares for the disabled. But caring alone will not do anything

for the disabled community through these very difficult times.

Recognizing that this is not the first time the disabled community in Metro has been used as a pawn in this kind of dispute, would the Premier agree to deem transportation services for the disabled to be an essential service and avoid this hardship happening again in the future?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We are not contemplating that course of action at the moment.

Mrs. Marland: I think the disabled community will be very concerned.

This morning I received a phone call from Susanne Moss. She is a member of the disabled community here in Toronto. Ms. Moss was extremely upset about two things, which perhaps the Premier could address.

First, Ms. Moss phoned the telephone number his government has made public, which provides the emergency taxi service to disabled persons on the Ministry of Community and Social Services list. A Co-op taxi came, picked her up and took her to her destination free of charge, but did not ask for any identification. Ms. Moss was very alarmed about this.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mrs. Marland: I have to give this background in order that the Premier can answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that, but I would appreciate the supplementary question as well.

Mrs. Marland: We got several news broadcasters in the city to phone the same number. They too were able to get a taxi at their doorstep. Obviously, the ministry is not checking to ensure that this emergency service is not being abused.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Do you have a question?

Mrs. Marland: Yesterday, Ms. Moss was told by the Minister of Labour's office that the minister was about to legislate the Wheel-Trans workers back to work. Will the Premier tell this House today when he is going to direct the Minister of Labour to put an end to this strike and do the humane thing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I cannot speak to Ms. Moss's problem, except I thought the member was going to say the taxi did not show up. I am delighted that at least the taxi showed up. As the member is aware, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has a plan in place that is trying to take into account emergency situations like Ms. Moss's, and we are trying to do the best we can in the circumstances.

At the moment it is not the government's position to intervene. This is being monitored hourly by the Minister of Labour, and at the moment he is of the opinion that there are some prospects for a settlement, and that is our hope at the moment.

EDUCATION OF HEARING IMPAIRED

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a question for the Minister of Education. It concerns deaf education in the province of Ontario. Last week or 10 days ago, I asked the minister a question about why there are so few deaf educators in our schools for the deaf. I suppose the minister is also aware that there are no deaf administrators or any deaf people in senior positions at all in the three schools for the deaf in Ontario. I wonder if he could tell me what role his ministry is playing to actively promote the deaf community in those kinds of positions, or is his ministry part of the active, systemic and systematic discrimination against the deaf in employment in our schools?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to assure the member that since he raised the question, I did take the time, in fact, to visit the Ernest C. Drury School for the hearing impaired. I want to assure him that indeed our ministry does actively promote the hiring and placement of hearing-impaired people in responsible positions within those facilities. I must say that during the course of my tour of that facility, I had the opportunity to interact with both students and staff, and I believe frankly that our ministry and the professionals within those facilities are indeed doing a commendable job.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to send across to the minister the résumé of one Clifton Carbin, MA, who was born in Ontario, who is now one of the chief deaf educators in the country, has written many books, administered several programs in British Columbia and who applied for a job as head of the Robarts School in London last year. The ministry did not even call him to interview. Can the minister explain that?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I cannot explain the specifics of that particular application. I will be happy to look into it.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. On Monday, in answer to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), the minister stated that the death of Mr. Pitcher, who was on a waiting list for heart surgery, was an isolated incident and that setting up a bed registry would solve the problem.

Let me tell the minister about another incident, involving a former constituent of mine, Mr. Thornton from McKellar, whose heart surgery had been postponed five times. When he was finally scheduled for surgery at St. Michael's Hospital two weeks ago, he suffered a heart attack on the operating table and died three days later.

I have talked to a number of cardiovascular surgeons and have been told that every single heart surgeon in this city experiences the same problem on a regular basis. It is obvious that these are not isolated incidents at all. The minister received an additional \$1.2 billion for her ministry in the budget of two weeks ago. Her ministry acknowledged some four years ago that a fourth cardiovascular unit is needed in the city of Toronto, but she has done nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves: People are dying because there are no beds available for this type of surgery. The buck stops at the minister. How many more people have to die before this minister spends the money and spends it wisely, where it should be spent?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: First, as I said earlier, our system is designed so that those in life-threatening situations receive priority. Advances in cardiac surgery in this province have allowed doctors to treat a wider range of people. A greater number of people are now recommended for surgery and this has resulted in a waiting list. However, it is the patient's doctor who determines if he requires emergency surgery. If that emergency is deemed necessary, the treatment, as I understand it, is readily available.

Mr. Eves: Let me inform the minister with some facts. I have taken the liberty of discussing this situation with a number of heart surgeons this morning again. For example, one heart surgeon in Metro Toronto had four cases scheduled for today. He is able to do one; the other three have to go home. Another has a patient in urgent need, with chest pains on a regular basis. He was told there are no beds available. He has phoned every cardiovascular unit in Metropolitan Toronto. He told me it is not uncommon for patients in an unstable condition and on intravenous to have to wait several days before a bed becomes available to perform this surgery.

There are no beds. A bed registry will not solve the problem. We have seen paediatric cases transferred from this province to the state of New York. Are heart specialists' cases going to be next? Are heart patients going to have to go to Buffalo next to get proper treatment?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The three units in Metropolitan Toronto have significantly increased their workload with additional funding from the ministry. As well, the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council is reviewing the demand for cardiovascular services at the present time and also reviewing the necessity for the establishment of a fourth unit.

Mr. Eves: That is not true and you know it.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is true.

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NONPROFIT HOUSING

Mr. Breough: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning theft in the Ministry of Housing. On or about the afternoon of April 20, 1988, the Treasurer deposited \$468 million in her accounts. Some time during the next eight days, \$27 million has gone missing. Her estimates show she has \$440 million. Who stole the \$27 million?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like a little more detail about that. Can the member tell me more?

Mr. Speaker: I presume that is asking for a supplementary.

Mr. Breough: It is \$27 million. It is about that high off the floor and green. She will notice it when she finds it.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Just the facts.

Mr. Breough: She is new; I have got to help her out.

On or about the same afternoon, the Treasurer announced that there would be 30,000 nonprofit housing units allocated by the ministry this year. Somewhere in the next eight days, somebody stole 15,000 housing units. What happened to those allocations?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The announcement in the budget was that we would be increasing our nonprofit allocation by 30,000 units over the next three years. Those units are going to be a combination of new building plus potential purchasing. Nothing was misplaced. All 30,000 of those units will come on stream, as we said they would, over the next three years.

SKILLS TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is for the Minister of Skills Development. The Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto, in its report *Missing the Mark*, notes that only 16 cents of every dollar spent by municipal, provincial and federal governments together was devoted to training, skills development and labour adjustment.

The poor and the jobless need training. The council further stated that the existing array of programs failed to deliver on the promise of more training. Can the minister tell this House why his Ministry of Skills Development, the ministry that has the responsibility for job training, underspent its budget by \$55 million in 1986-87 and by \$77 million in 1987-88?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I thank the member for her question. As the member has seen, the social planning council did report that in its report *Missing the Mark*. It felt, too, that more training could be done for social assistance recipients. We agree on that.

In training itself, it takes the co-operation of all three levels of government, as the social planning council has indicated. We have done our part as much as we could in the last couple of years in setting up Ontario's Training Strategy, which is addressed to training Ontarians. We are quite a leader in that in the province.

We have seen also that the federal government has cut back considerably on its training funding to the province, and that itself has put a tremendous burden on the province. We stand extremely committed in regard to training and we are doing an exceptional job. I am sure more can be done.

Also, it is shown that some of the figures used in the social planning report could be investigated a bit more, because the fact is they did not count some of the Futures clients in our group who are on social—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary.

Mrs. Cunningham: Let us then stay with this budget as opposed to blaming the federal government and let us just say that \$132 million in the last two years was not spent on vastly needed improved training programs.

The minister does appear, however, to have some unlimited funds that he is able to spend on lavish one-day conferences, such as the one that was held in London last Friday, costing thousands of dollars with free bars and shrimp. The participants at the conference have been in touch with me and they have advised me that they are concerned about the government's out-of-control spending. They are very embarrassed for the minister and they are very concerned about mismanagement of our tax dollars.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mrs. Cunningham: How can the minister justify these lavish receptions at the same time as he fails to deliver programs to train our workforce?

Hon. Mr. Curling: I think the conference that the honourable member mentioned is on literacy. We have five regional conferences on literacy being planned across the province. I am a bit disappointed that the member did not see it as necessary when we got all these volunteer groups and agencies that are concerned about literacy and doing a tremendous job there; that because we provided some food for these people, it should be considered lavish.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Curling: The amount of work these volunteer groups have done is beyond the few shrimps that we have provided for these groups. Literacy is a great concern here, and we are doing—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would remind all members it is certainly much easier if only one member talks at a time, which is according to the standing orders.

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. In my riding of Simcoe Centre is the oldest and the largest retirement community in this province—it is called Sandy Cove Acres—and there are across the province about 15 retirement communities and another 15 in the process of coming about. There are problems with these retirement communities. There is a difficulty with regard to the registration of the ownership of the modular homes; there is a problem with regard to the maintenance fees that are being introduced or increased every year; the populations are ageing; and there is a problem with the Victorian Order of Nurses and Meals on Wheels for these people.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Owen: Can the minister tell us what her ministry, in conjunction with the many other ministries involved, is proposing to try to come to grips with the complex problems that are facing these retirement communities?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I am aware of the concerns, as raised by the member for Simcoe Centre, with regard to retirement communities. I assure him that they relate to a whole broad set of issues which involve a number of ministries—the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

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As an initial step, my office has been working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and with other concerned ministries and we have now released a report regarding retirement communities. As a second phase, we are working on issues which relate to the impact of retirement communities on municipal planning issues.

I do, however, want to assure the member that residents of retirement communities across the province have physicians' services and acute and chronic home care services available to them. I would use as an example the services which are available in the Sandy Cove retirement community, which the member mentioned as being in his riding. Right in that retirement community, VON is available. There is a foot clinic on site, home care is provided through Simcoe county and the public health department there provides public health nurse visits.

Mr. Owen: We are relatively new to the retirement community concept in this province. They existed for many years before we started them, in various parts of Europe, such as Britain, Sweden, France and Switzerland. They have existed in a various number of the states in the United States. Will the ministry look to see how these jurisdictions endeavour to cope with some of the problems we are facing, to assist us from their example and from what they have gone through?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: As part of the work with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, extensive consultation had gone on in Canada, particularly in Alberta, and also in the United States there have been workshops and meetings with American groups of retirees and developers of retirement communities. There have been trips to New Jersey and Oregon, where retirement communities have been in the planning stages and have been part of the housing for seniors over a considerable number of years.

I do want to stress that this government has a very strong commitment to community services and, in particular, wants to emphasize community services to retirees and seniors who live in remote and rural areas. We will continue to offer those particular services to the people in today's retirement communities as well.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Mrs. Grier: Watching reruns of interviews with the Minister of the Environment is, I am sure, a pastime all members of the House enjoy.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is this a member's statement or a question?

Mrs. Grier: It is a question for the Minister of the Environment. It refers to recycling. In recycling some of his interviews, I was fascinated by one on *The Nature of Things* two years ago where the program showed that motor vehicles in Ontario are a major source of atmospheric pollution. In response to a question from Mr. Suzuki, the minister said: "This is one of the areas we are looking at. We've had safety checks. I think it would be very useful to have environmental safety checked at the same time. This is another area that our ministry is exploring."

Given the fact that nothing has been done about this problem since 1986, can the minister tell us down what polluted blind alley his explorations led him?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Interestingly enough, the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore inadvertently uses the same rhetoric as the polluting companies in this province, because what the polluting companies say to me is—and the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) would be most familiar with this—"Why don't you go chasing the vehicles in this province instead of bothering us with members of the investigation enforcement branch? Don't you realize that the problem is outside of the factories and business in this province and it's really the vehicles?"

We try to make a good effort in all areas. The member would know that we have increased the funding in this program by some 23 per cent, even though she likes to use dollars. They talk about constant dollars or something like that. In dollars that you have in your wallet, we are spending 23 per cent more on this program.

Also, the federal government, at the urging of provincial governments across this country, has this year implemented Canadian emission standards for the 1988 model year which are now comparable to what used to be the more stringent American standards.

The member also knows that sulphur dioxide is by far the largest source of acid rain in this province. What we did about sulphur dioxide was that we went after the biggest polluters in this province and we have now the toughest regulations anywhere in North America to deal with acid rain.

Mrs. Grier: I do not know what figures the Minister of the Environment is looking at, but if he looks at my figures, he will find that under the party to my left in seating, the actual dollars in 1983-84 were \$413,000; the actual dollars in

1988-89 are \$382,000. Out of four million cars in the province, 683 were tested last year. Out of a ministry staff of 2,000, there are seven lonely people in the vehicle emissions unit, and it is one per cent of the ministry's budget.

Does the minister really think, given that automobile emissions contribute 10 per cent of the acid rain emissions in this country, that is good enough?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It is interesting that the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore, a member of the New Democratic Party, would ask a question about emissions from vehicles in this province, very interesting indeed, because last month this government, under the auspices of the Treasurer, took the boldest, single most effective step to stop misfuelling of vehicles and to stop the wrecking of emission control devices by tampering, when he applied an environmental tax which would equalize the cost of leaded and unleaded fuel in this province. The people who claim to be concerned about the environment, would not give three cents, because they are afraid of losing two votes.

TOURISM INDUSTRY

Mr. McLean: My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Would the minister tell this House how he thinks a tax increase of one cent per litre on gasoline and three cents a litre on unleaded gasoline—that is 18 cents a gallon—will affect Ontario tourism and the hospitality industry?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I would like to thank the member for Simcoe East for the question, but I think the message we should be putting across in this province and throughout the world is that we have the best tourism bargains in the world here in Ontario. I think we should also tell the member that we expect our tourism results in this province will be up by at least six per cent in the coming year and I believe that is because of the positive moves this government has taken over the last two years and in the budget that this will happen.

1450

Mr. McLean: If the minister thinks raising the sales tax to eight per cent and increasing the gas tax is going to help the tourist industry, I am afraid he is mistaken. Does the minister not realize that increases in the cost of boat rentals discourage tourists? It is hurting the tourist operators. Three quarters of the buses in Ontario run on regular fuel. The Ontario transport industry operates 50 per cent on regular fuel. Not only that, but older cars that take people with low incomes to work run on regular fuel. Does the

minister feel that the 18 cents a gallon his Treasurer has put on the gasoline tax is fair?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, I believe the moves the Treasurer has taken are just ones. In this particular case, all of the money that will be collected because of that increase will be spent on roads. This will improve our touring routes and will enable people to travel to all parts of this province and take part in the great tourism facilities that we have.

EXTENDED CARE

Mr. Campbell: My question is to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. Recently her ministry completed a care requirement study which implied, by some press accounts, that 55 per cent of the people in extended care do not require the care. Could the minister clarify the study's conclusions?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I would first provide by way of background some information regarding new extended care legislation which the office for senior citizens' affairs is working on. The purpose of the legislation is to bring together, in one act, the extended care program which currently takes place under two ministries and three different pieces of now outdated legislation.

One of several initiatives which we undertook in the development of the new legislation was a study of care required by people, mainly senior citizens, in the extended care beds in the province. The study was undertaken in co-operation with the Ontario Nursing Home Association and the Association for Nonprofit Homes and Services for Seniors.

The study showed that 55 per cent of seniors in extended care beds actually require less than 90 minutes of direct care per day. The study did not show that 55 per cent of people do not need to be in institutions. In fact, victims of Alzheimer's or dementia may not require 90 minutes of direct care per day, but they may, in fact, require 24-hour supervision.

Mr. Campbell: I am concerned that people out there, who are families of people in extended care services, are not receiving that message. Could the ministry consider plans to clarify the situation for those families in a very desperate situation?

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: As I mentioned, the study was one of a number of initiatives we are undertaking in the development of the new legislation. It does, in fact, refer to extended care in nursing homes and homes for the aged across the province. Those people in extended care beds

have, of course, given up their homes, and most of them are permanent residents. Those people are not going anywhere.

Our aim as a government is to prevent inappropriate and unnecessary institutionalization, and I believe the results of that study indicate we are on the right track in providing other support services for seniors in their homes: grouped homes, supported apartment units, a range of choices for the frail elderly who do need assistance.

PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question for the Premier regarding the forest industry's response to the Premier's Council report which was issued last month. That report states that the pulp and paper industry should be shifting its technology and investment from commodity goods like newsprint to higher-value specialty products.

However, four days after that report was issued, the only forestry company represented on the Premier's Council, Abitibi-Price, in fact announced that it plans to build a newsprint mill in Venezuela. That followed an announcement the month before that it is investing in a new mill in Alabama.

What has the Premier done to deal with his council member, Abitibi president Bernd Koken, to ensure that pulp and higher-value paper production takes place here in Canada, not in Venezuela and Alabama?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First of all, I do not have control over Abitibi-Price, any more than the member's leader has control over him. We are not dictatorial in that regard. One of the things that is happening with some of our multinationals, in fact, is that they are becoming more multinational and are investing in the world.

One of the things that has concerned us, particularly through the Woodbridge, Reed report, is that we have to have far more capital investment in the pulp and paper area, as my honourable friend will know, to compete in more specialty products in that area. It is not an area that has had a high degree of capital investment the last 30 or 40 years.

Mr. Wildman: There hasn't been any.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, there has been some. There have been some paper machines at Great Lakes Forest Products and others at Dryden and Thunder Bay but, on balance, my friend the member for Algoma is quite right. There is a lot of work to be done.

This is one of the first priorities of the industrial restructuring commission, and there

are discussions going on now in that regard. The member will be aware that, in the budget, the Treasurer presented certain proposals with respect to capital cost allowance and research and technology that we think will be beneficial in promoting capital investment in this province to make sure that we have the infrastructure in place to compete in the long term.

Mr. Morin-Strom: In the Premier's Council report last month, it states that as part of building a world-class industry in this area we need government, industry, labour consensus behind the pulp and paper industry and the profits used in that industry should be used to restructure and invest in new higher-value-added production, as occurred in Sweden.

However, Bernd Koken, the member of the council who is the president of Abitibi, in his statement to his annual meeting last month said his definition of world class is as follows: "To be truly world class, Canada must move beyond its traditional role as a major exporter of products. To do this, our businesses have to be located in places other than Canada."

What kind of world-class industry is the Premier and the Premier's Council trying to build; one where we produce higher-value products here in Canada or one where Canadian multinationals take their profits to build plants in Venezuela and Alabama?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think one of the analyses of the Ontario and, indeed, the Canadian economy that was undertaken by the Premier's Council—and it came to many conclusions—is that we do not have enough Canadian-based multinationals, enough companies of scale, to take on the entire world markets.

My honourable friend may want to pass a law saying you cannot move outside of this province, but exactly what is happening is the opposite. We have to assist where we can to create the critical mass to create companies of international scale and dimension. Increasingly, my friend will be aware, international-class companies are locating in a variety of different locations, on different continents, to take advantage of the international markets.

I say to my friend, a Canadian company investing in another country does not preclude in any way its investing in this country and, indeed, tends to be very complementary. Great Lakes, at the same time it made a \$400-million investment in paper machines, made an investment in Washington state. Perhaps my friend, from his economic philosophy, would try to pass a law to prevent that from going on. But I say to my

honourable friend, trained as he is as an economist, he will know that his political rhetoric in this regard is getting in the way of any reasonable analysis of the economic situation.

1500

MINERAL EXPLORATION INCENTIVES

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Treasurer. Yesterday, the federal government announced the Canadian exploration incentive program as a partial resolution of the flow-through share controversy. Under that program, applicants may receive up to 30 per cent of allowable exploration expenses as a grant, up to a maximum of \$10 million per corporation.

Could the Treasurer tell me how the province will be treating the federal grants to the mining industry under provincial provisions of the Mining Tax Act, the Corporations Tax Act and the Income Tax Act?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I know that the officials of the ministries of Treasury and Revenue and the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway) are all interested in this matter and I will be able to give the member a more specific answer after we have had a chance to examine it more closely. I really am very glad indeed that the federal government has decided to extend, by this additional program, the advantages of the old flow-through share program for another six months.

Mr. Pope: In the negotiations that the provincial government is undertaking now with the federal authorities with respect to the tax treatment of these grants, will the provincial government assert reciprocity in treatment of Ontario mineral exploration program grants for federal income tax purposes, in other words, allow them to be deductible for tax purposes?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This deductibility cuts both ways, as I am sure the member is aware. We are very glad that this additional encouragement for mineral exploration continues and we want to have it maximized as far as the recipients are concerned. We have to see that it is fair and equitable, taking the fairly broad range of programs where one jurisdiction taxes the advantages given by another jurisdiction. Traditionally, the credits and the payments are taxed, and normally an additional program goes forward to make up the encouragement and incentive that is basically there.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Callahan: I have a question for the Minister of Education. The Treasurer, in his previous budget, recognized the region of Peel as

a high growth area and, accordingly, capital grants were just about equal. In the most recent budget, there appeared to be on the surface a divergence between the amounts allocated, public and separate.

My question to the minister, and this has been asked by opposition members but they apparently are not interested in the answer at this point, is: Can he give me some idea of the pupil ratio, public and separate, in the Peel region, that would achieve two ends, in other words, recognize the high growth area, as we did in the past, and also recognize quality education for the people in my riding?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As the member points out, the allocations that were made last week were made on the basis of need. Primarily, the funds were committed to the creation of new pupil spaces. The current year's program should create an additional 45,000 pupil spaces, once fully in place. The criteria in establishing which projects were to get priority were established on the basis of need, on the basis of enrolment growth. Whatever differences may exist between public and separate allocations are primarily a result of whatever differences may arise as a result of enrolment growth in either the elementary or secondary panel.

Mr. Callahan: Can I ask of the minister more specific information as to the—I am trying to put this clearly—the pupil ratio in terms of public versus separate at the present time in the Peel region. If he does not have that information, I would appreciate it if that information could be made available at a later time.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The differences in terms of the elementary panel in enrolment growth from 1986 to 1987 between the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Peel Board of Education is that in the Dufferin-Peel separate board, enrolment growth in elementary was 5.4 per cent; in the public sector, it was 0.7 per cent.

In the secondary sector, the Dufferin-Peel enrolment growth at the secondary level was 22 per cent; on the public side, there was a decrease of 0.9 per cent.

Mrs. Marland: On a point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker: Earlier this afternoon, when the official opposition party was asking a question in this House, at that time, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) broadcast to everyone that Margaret Marland had borrowed his car. I would like to set the record straight. I have not borrowed the Attorney General's car.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Must have been Andy's.

Hon. Mr. Scott: I am not sure whose car it was.

Mr. Breaugh: It is right in there with the \$27 million missing.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That sounded like a point of personal explanation.

PETITIONS

MUNICIPAL ZONING BYLAWS

Mr. Jackson: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of the province of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas during the 1987 election campaign, all three political parties expressed their disavowal of municipal bylaws which have the effect of limiting the number of unrelated persons who can legally occupy the same dwelling;

"We therefore call upon the government to act on the petitions of 228 students from McMaster University in Hamilton who have written to the Premier and whose petitions read, in part:

"'As a student at McMaster University, I strongly urge you to keep your promise to end discriminatory and exclusionary municipal housing bylaws by passing Progressive Conservative MPP Cam Jackson's Bill 94 as soon as possible.'"

That also has been favoured with my signature.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if any other members are having difficulty in hearing what is taking place. I certainly am.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: I have a petition signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers in the province of Ontario which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you have gone too far."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Sola: I have three petitions on Sunday shopping. I will read one.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We are opposed to increased business and commerce on Sundays. The laws regarding

Sunday openings should remain in the hands of the provincial government.”

This is signed by 134 constituents. I have two others phrased approximately the same way with 63 signatures and 16 signatures.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Beer from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the committee's report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the Hamilton Civic Hospitals;

Bill Pr25, An Act respecting Kingsway General Insurance Company;

Bill Pr30, An Act respecting The General Hospital of Port Arthur;

Bill Pr38, An Act to revive Prow Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd.

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill Pr34, An Act to revive Machin Mines Limited.

Your committee recommends that Bill Pr49, An Act to revive Lebon Gold Mines Limited, be not reported.

Your committee further recommends that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr30, An Act respecting The General Hospital of Port Arthur.

Motion agreed to.

1510

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

PLANNING AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 128, An Act to amend the Planning Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 106, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act and the Municipal Act.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for Simcoe West had some more comments on this legislation.

Mr. McCague: When we adjourned last evening, I was speaking with the minister about Bill 106, complimenting him to some extent on the fact that he has a bill with a lot of amendments that have been and are being sought by municipalities but also warning him that I thought he had overlooked two of the most important recommendations that have been made to him during the discussion on these matters.

Those two points were from the final report of the Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections, when in recommendation 81 it said, “The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not enact any legislation affecting the local government electoral process within the six months immediately preceding voting day, in an election year.”

And in recommendation 82, it said, “The committee recommends that no changes in the method of election or in the composition of municipal councils or school boards be permitted after January 15 of an election year.”

I am sure the minister feels good about the fact that the comments that came from the Association of Municipalities of Ontario did congratulate the minister on having brought forward legislation that is not only innovative and challenging but which contains many of the recommendations previously submitted by the association.

“The association”—AMO—“recognizes the urgency of proceeding with the legislation so that all concerned become fully conversant with the new procedures and requirements prior to election day, November 14.

“However, having accepted this condition, the association wishes to advise that its response to Bill 106 has been immediate and therefore must be considered to be preliminary. Many of our municipal members find themselves in the same position and, no doubt, additional recommendations will be forthcoming in the very near future.”

That is just the problem. As various members have said, in particular the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) yesterday, the confusion that this whole proliferation of bills is bringing to the November 14 municipal election scene is horrendous in the minds of many people, and the honourable minister is a wise enough man to know that.

I can understand, and I think we can all understand, that probably Lindsay, Brantford, Barrie and a few other of those bigger places are well equipped to handle these kinds of changes. They have the financial resources and they have

the manpower to do that. But for some it is very difficult.

As Municipal Affairs critic for the smaller municipalities for our party, the initial reactions we have had to the bill—and I must say they are initial since this bill has not been tabled for very long—are various. The retroactive application of the expenses and contributions limits concerns them. The role of the clerk concerns them, and that comes not only from clerks but from municipal councillors as well. The length of the campaign period is of concern, as are the expenses placed on the municipalities and the fact that it appears it could be implemented for 1988.

Making the bill retroactive to January 1, 1988, could cause accounting and administrative problems for many candidates. Some candidates who had previously decided to run in the 1988 elections may have begun their campaign fund-raising before the beginning of 1988, and the question often asked is, "Will these funds be unavailable to them for the coming campaign?" Others will consider it to be unfair if he allows people to use funds for this campaign that were collected prior to the beginning of 1988.

There is a concern that the extra duties placed upon the clerks will create an unprecedented burden on them. Again, I reiterate that, in many of the smaller municipalities, the operation of the clerk's office is a one-person operation; some of them have a secretary. But I think the minister must realize that, whether the municipality has 100,000 people or 1,000 people, the work basically is of the same magnitude and, I suggest to him, much more when you consider the per-person magnitude of the problems he is thrusting upon them. Clerks will have to prepare a voters' list, conduct recounts, monitor expenses and contributions, enforce disclosure measures, provide rebates, and the list really does go on and on.

As I said, there is concern about the campaign period. As I understand it, the bill that has been introduced provides for a 14.5-month campaign period, defined to commence on January 1 of an election year and end three months after polling. While some will say that that is long for a campaign period, there are other municipalities that are saying it should be longer. When they say it should be longer, they are saying that it should go more than three months after November 14, at least in the year 1988 if the minister persists in proceeding, in order that they may have a little time to acquaint themselves a little better with the whole system and get their books in order.

A lot of the smaller municipalities are concerned about the increased expense. While I do not argue at all with the fact that all the polls have to be accessible to the handicapped, imposing that by 1991 without any assistance from the ministry at all may be a goal that is very hard for them to achieve. Of course, as usual, we think the minister is spending enough money over here now, so I hesitate to ask him for more money for the municipalities. I will let the municipalities ask him for it themselves from his rather large budget. Someone has suggested that the minister might want to centralize the polling stations. But, of course, if you reduce the number of polling stations, you reduce again the accessibility to people, handicapped or not.

There is some concern about the number of voters' lists that have to be printed. I know this is minimal in a lot of ways, but some people are concerned about getting them in too many hands and about who picks those up in the scheme of things; then you get a letter wanting you to subscribe to Readers' Digest or whatever a few days after the election.

I just think the minister would be doing the honourable thing if he were to decide to put off this bill and make it effective for the 1991 elections. We could start debating it even right now or right after the 1988 elections.

I think there is a lot of confusion that is going to surround it. As I said before, the member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann) seems to be content with it; the minister seems to be, but I am not sure they are getting the message from the smaller municipalities in the province, and it is my job to speak for those smaller municipalities, many of whom have spoken to me.

With that, I just sum up by saying that there are a lot of good things in the bill. It is flawed in many ways, in that I do not think the municipalities are going to be able to cope with it, and it would be a very honourable move if he were to withdraw it. We will have time to talk more about that when, as I understand, the minister sends it to committee.

1520

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Are there any questions or comments on the remarks by the member for Simcoe West? If not, would anyone else wish to participate in the debate? If not, Minister, would you like to sum up in reply?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Madam Speaker, I just want to make a few comments here in summing up. I want to express appreciation to the members for their participation. I believe this act is going to do a great deal for the municipalities of Ontario

and for the municipal people. It is one which has been under discussion.

I know there was some discussion about how long the municipal people have had an opportunity to discuss this. It was introduced into the House here by way of a statement on December 10. It was sent out to all municipalities and they were told that this would be effective on January 1. Through some of our municipal seminars, we have had an opportunity to talk about this, and the municipal people themselves and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario seemed to be very much interested in the bill and in its content.

We have had very close liaison with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, in fact, in regard to some of the parts of Bill 106. The AMO comments were to congratulate the minister on having brought forth legislation that is not only innovative and challenging but which contains many of the recommendations which they have been asking for. It would appear to me that AMO was saying, "Let us get on with it."

I was surprised to hear from the critic, my colleague from the New Democratic Party the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), that the New Democratic Party would oppose the bill. Actually, some of the parts of this bill are what his party has been asking for. Indeed, I know that his party and others have been asking about the optional tax credit or the contribution credit, as we call that. In fact, the large urban section of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario contacted his leader and the letter that was sent out to all municipalities said, "I have discussed this bill with the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Rae indicated his initial reaction is favourable," so I cannot understand the opposition and the fact that he is going to oppose the bill.

There was a lot of comment in regard to the tax credit. If the honourable member does not want the tax credit, he should just tell me. We can accommodate him. That is what he was talking about.

Indeed, with regard to the tax credit, I noticed that Robin Sears, the principal secretary of the Ontario NDP, even thought that the bill had passed. He said it was passed last month, limiting campaign contribution expenses. He likes that. Also, he has said the NDP "don't raise money from development lawyers" and that neither the Liberals nor the Conservatives are enthusiastic about the new legislation. I wonder if Mr. Sears knows who is bringing the legislation in. It is his own party that is finding fault with the bill and, certainly, the discussion about the optional tax credit.

Some members have asked where the small communities of this province are going to get their auditors. I can tell members that there are more auditors in the small communities across this province than they realize.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Could it be that Robin Sears doesn't talk to Mike Breaugh?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I guess I could ask if Mr. Sears talks to the critic for the New Democratic Party. I am sure after today they will get together.

I want to emphasize that this contribution rebate is optional. Many have asked for it. I have had letters from all parts of the province and from the areas that many members in the opposition represent, saying, if they can contribute to federal and provincial elections, why can they not do the same with municipal elections? They have asked for an opportunity to contribute so that the appearance is not that it is big development and the big people who are making the contributions in municipal elections but that the average citizen on the street has that opportunity.

As far as the work of the municipality is concerned, this is optional. I would presume that the large percentage of the municipalities of Ontario will not want to take the opportunity to opt into it. But the option is there, it has been asked for, and I believe that it is a good one. I might say that at the meeting of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario at the end of March down in Perth, AMO spoke very forcefully about the need for this tax credit.

I want to say also that the materials will be prepared in easy language. We have held seminars around the province and there appears to be a very great acceptance indeed. The ministry staff have met with AMO, the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario and with trustees' associations in regard to the content of this bill.

I have faith in the elected leaders across this province. What we are endeavouring to do is to raise the importance of municipal government. I think for too long we have looked upon municipal government as the poor cousin to the federal and provincial governments. I feel that municipal government is every bit as important as federal and provincial governments.

This is another way of making sure that it has a higher profile and that we can raise the profile of municipal government across this province, by making sure that we have some of those reforms in place, reforms that are going to make the governing of municipalities much more im-

proved and, to a greater extent, create a greater interest in serving in municipal government.

I could go on with a number of other comments in regard to the bill, but we are quite content that this bill go to committee and we look forward to those discussions at that time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for the standing committee on general government.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Elliot: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me the floor to complete what is really my first speech in this Legislative Assembly. I would like to review a couple of the items, although I do not plan to repeat the 15 minutes or so that I spoke on Thursday afternoon last.

I began by talking a lot about my great riding of Halton North and the gracious people who saw fit to send me down here last September 10. I need to review the expectations that I feel those people have of me here. I identified their number one concern as protecting the environment. They want quality health care delivered; they want quality education and they want improvement in their roads. They want those four things, while we balance the budget and give out sufficient operating capital so that the boards and agencies can operate in a meaningful way. They request longer projections on capital expenditures, those same boards and agencies. In line with the report of the Premier's Council's, they want us to make available sufficient research and development funding to compete in a high-tech industry on a global basis.

I took a fair bit of time last Thursday to talk about the research-and-development budget considerations because I feel that we have made a good start in that area. The second thing I had time to talk about a bit and highlight was the increase of \$1.2 billion in health care expenditures. I think those are critical and, in a very personal way, I talked about that last Thursday.

Today I would like to begin by going on to the third item on my list, and that is education, which happens to be my own field. I think there are three initiatives in this budget that excite me a great deal with respect to making up for some of the shortfall in that area over the last decade or two.

1530

First, the \$900 million in a three-year capital program which will support \$1.3 billion in elementary and secondary construction, to me is a very meaningful budget consideration. As we are all aware, \$381 million of this has already been announced, and it is nice for my people in my jurisdiction in the region of Halton to know that approximately similar amounts will be allocated in the next two years.

Second, the \$430 million over the next three years to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2, to buy more textbooks in the schools and to introduce computer technology into our schools is really very meaningful to me personally, partly because it was an election promise, and I like to see election promises fulfilled.

I would like to comment on two things with respect to this area because it affects me directly in things I have been working on for the last 28 years in the educational field. A member of the third party, in addressing this idea of reducing class sizes in grades 1 and 2, made the statement that there is absolutely no statistical evidence to support reduction in class size as being an add-in to quality education in the classroom.

Probably that statement by itself cannot be refuted, but as a person who has taught mathematics in grades 9 to 13 for 28 years, I have identified literally hundreds of students, as head of math departments in four different jurisdictions, who come into grades 9 and 10 with an ability or performance level in that subject area at the grades 3 and 4 level.

The whole idea with respect to reducing class sizes, and we are talking averages here, in grades 1 and 2 is early identification—preventive medicine, if I may, in the educational field. If students come to me in grade 10 with a grade 3 background in mathematics, which is the case with a lot of students, it means they have tuned out systematically over the years.

I would like to go to the defence of my colleagues in the elementary panel for a moment here. By and large, most of the people who teach in the elementary panel are generalists. They lean on textbooks and other add-ins quite a bit in order to teach mathematics. They are not mathematics specialists.

This is a highly conceptualized area. If the concepts are not learned as a basis, down the road it is very difficult to teach those concepts in conjunction with sometimes as many as 30 or 35 students in a classroom who really want to be taught the grade 10 concepts.

I suggest that the members of this Legislature be aware of the fact that there is a North American and worldwide communication network called ERIC. One can go to almost any community college or any university, and by putting in key words to that program, one can come out with a listing of all of the educational research that has been done on any topic of one's choice.

I submit that if the member from the third party who made this allegation in the House last week did this, she would find that there would be copious quantities of research that would be available showing that if we identify learning disabilities early in grades 1 and 2, it pays off handsomely down the road in the later grades. I support that initiative wholeheartedly.

The second thing that has begun to be talked about recently because of the press is leaseback arrangements in the educational field, particularly with respect to libraries. What people are conveniently leaving out of that idea is the fact that, with respect to libraries, it is the current materials that are going to be handled in this way. Some private-enterprise people feel they can service a number of libraries more efficiently with this material, in the way that has been suggested, than with any other.

I concur with this. If anybody reads into that that the archives are going to be damaged in any way, this is not the impression I get when I talk to librarians at the university level. The archives will be maintained and added to, as they always have been.

The reason I mention it here is with respect to computer technology in the schools. When we started computer programs in the schools that I had been part of in 1976, it was because teachers in the schools saw fit to bring in their own personal computers, set up labs and get going on it. Ever since that, in the secondary schools and elementary schools of this province, we have been at least two and sometimes three and four generations of computers behind the ones which are actually being used in the business and industrial world.

I submit that if the boards of education went to the industries and worked out an arrangement whereby, on a leaseback arrangement, all of that type of equipment could be supplied to the schools, we would be turning out graduates who would be ready to compete as they must in our high-technology society. I feel very strongly about the fact that leaseback arrangements in certain situations are almost the ideal way of doing things.

The third item with respect to the educational area has to do with accessibility to the universities. I was really pleased to see the \$38 million allocated for that purpose in 1988-89, and more than pleased to see that another \$88 million will be allocated in 1989-90, as that is a problem because of the bulge in population at the present. A number of people, including the Ontario Federation of Students, have talked to me about that. They have also talked to me about the fact that residence spaces are at a premium. The \$440 million in capital expenditures over the next five years, putting in place 5,000 more residence spaces as part of that, will be welcomed in the educational field by all of those people, I am sure.

The next item I would like to address has to do with road construction. I was pleased, again, to see the \$1.397 billion in capital projects in this budget in that area. This includes \$33 million for GO Transit extension and improvement and \$100 million for northern Ontario roads.

I would like to take a moment here to highlight another thing with respect to this whole area. In my communities, they are having a tough time coming up with the matching grants, because too often, with respect to the Ministry of Transportation, when this is talked about in the press and by politicians, they talk about all of the money flowing from the centre. In fact, that is not the way it happens.

Most of the time, 50 per cent of the money has to be put up by either the local municipality and/or the region. They are doing everything they can to put their 50 per cent in place. I am pleased to say that in our region, anyway, the ministry is doing an excellent job in matching those moneys. We are getting almost everything we ask for because it is based on a three-year to five-year projection. There are no surprises there. They know exactly where the region and the municipalities would like to go.

The final thing I would like to talk about specifically here has to do with the environment. I would like to wind up with that because it has to be my number one concern. I would like to be very specific with respect to my own riding of Halton North in this regard.

When we talk about keeping the environment pure or protecting it, we are talking about keeping the water pure, the air pure and the soil pure. We like to do everything we can to ensure that because, as I said in my introductory remarks, I live on the Niagara Escarpment myself and 30 per cent of my riding is on the escarpment. The headwaters of all the main

tributaries into Lake Ontario and on the other side, going down into Lake Huron and the other lakes, rise in the escarpment. I submit that if we poison the water there, we have problems in Mississauga, Oakville, Burlington and the other municipalities downriver on the other side of the escarpment.

This is why I would like to talk mainly about water today, instead of the air and soil considerations, which is another story by itself. Again, I would like to do this to point out the fact that with ordered kinds of planning, things are possible. There is no magic in these things. In my community of Acton when I took over six months ago, I was pleased to see that the Ministry of the Environment was in the process of assessing the water supplies in that area so that ordered development might take place.

You have to do that because you need the water for the houses. You also need the runoff from the sewer plants that have to be put in place when you build in areas like that. The particular creek is Black Creek. I am pleased to say that the outcome of that two-and-a-half-year study shows there is sufficient water for the ordered development the town of Acton wants—not what anybody else wants; the town of Acton wants that.

It is the same thing in Milton. The mayor there, Gordon Krantz, was successful in talking the region of Halton into a regional urban review. It is under way. The third part of a five-part report was delivered to us just two weeks ago. It looks as if in the town of Milton we have enough water and sewage capability to go ahead by about 8,600 people, which is just fine on the ordered growth we would like in that community. That will take about two years. In that interval of time, we will no doubt put in place a long-range plan that will handle us for the next decade or two. That kind of long-range planning is affordable, is logical and gives the ordered development the town of Milton wants.

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In Georgetown, we are just completing a sewage capacity increase, a \$10-million addition to the plant. This is done in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment again. This is an area where, ordinarily, the municipality pays 85 per cent of the cost and the ministry pays 15 per cent of the cost; but in this case that was increased just a bit as an inducement to put in an ultraviolet system which will assure more capacity and purer water, as well as a nitrification process that does something to the ammonia that assures the same thing. We are assuring that pure water goes

back into Silver Creek and into the Credit River by these initiatives.

Throughout all of these examples I have talked about, I have tried to highlight the fact that the people in my area would like capital projections on a three-to-five-year basis so they can do planning. They want operating costs designated in the same way, as is possible, because in most cases when you go board by board and agency by agency, the requests are either for reasonable increases and in a lot of cases there are actually cutbacks. They are doing a fine job at the municipalities and at the regional level and they are looking to us for some support in the areas of concern to them, and that is what I think we should develop.

This leads into the final of my three points, and that has to do with balancing the budget. We now have an accumulated debt in the province of \$38.8 billion. This costs us 11 cents on every dollar. People in my riding say to me that more than in any other area, they do not want that accumulated deficit to increase any more. Mathematically, as a math teacher, it does not make any sense to me to increase it any more, so I am behind them full square on that one.

I am particularly pleased that in this budget the cash requirement has been chopped down to \$473 million, a reduction of \$720 million over last year. It is the lowest level it has been in 19 years, and that pleases me a great deal.

In conclusion, it is important that Ontario competes globally, as per the Premier's Council report. We have to develop our high-tech industries. We need to put infusions of research and development money in that area so that it is possible. We must, because it is important, give sufficient operating money to our councils and to our boards and agencies and we have to ensure that it is handled in a fiscally responsible manner, both there and here. We should give a three-to-five-year projection on capital expenditures. That should become the vogue so proper planning may occur. The budget should be balanced and the accumulated debt should be reduced.

The measures taken in this budget will keep our economy buoyant into possibly a seventh, an eighth and a ninth year of sustained growth. We are just finishing off what has been six years of sustained growth in Ontario. In my riding of Halton North, this translates into a protected environment, improved roads, quality education and quality health care.

I support the Treasurer in his budget and will be opposing the amendment to his resolution. His

resolution should be supported by all members of this House.

Mr. Black: I would first of all like to offer congratulations to the member for Halton North (Mr. Elliot) on an excellent speech. I was particularly interested in his comments related to education. I believe it is worth pointing out that when he comments on education he brings considerable experience to that particular field.

Last week we heard a member of the third party, the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), be somewhat critical of this government for its initiatives in the field of primary education. She suggested, quite incorrectly, that those initiatives would not pay off, that it had not been proven that smaller class sizes were beneficial. The member for Halton North has today corrected that somewhat mistaken impression.

He quite correctly identifies that early identification of children with learning disabilities is best done in the primary grades, that there is ample evidence to support the fact that with an increased emphasis on primary education we can help correct some of those problems before they become ingrained in children and, therefore, the initiative of this government to provide smaller class sizes in the primary division is indeed a very sound approach.

He also quite correctly identifies that increased spending on computers is desirable. I am impressed with his suggestion that there are some significant advantages in leaseback opportunities for hardware. One of the things we need to do in talking about computer education is to ensure that hardware is kept current, and so I congratulate the member for Halton North on his insights.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any other honourable member wish to comment or ask questions? If not, the member for Halton North, if he wishes, has two minutes in which to sum up.

Mr. Elliot: I do not really think I require the two minutes to sum up. I would like to acknowledge the comments from my colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) and to thank him very much for them.

I would just like to indicate that my first main speech in the Legislature was not nearly the traumatic experience I thought it was going to be. I enjoyed it very much.

Mr. Morin-Strom: It is a pleasure to address this budget. From our perspective, it can only be one which is going to provide us with hope of gathering support in years to come, because the public is absolutely furious about what this

Liberal government with its arrogant majority is doing to the people of this province. We are seeing the largest tax grab in the history of Ontario by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), and the people of this province will not stand for it.

We are seeing a tax increase on sales taxes for the first time in over a decade, an increase from seven to eight per cent. While that may sound like a one per cent increase, in fact, it is an increase of more than 14 per cent on the sales taxes that we were paying previously. This has to have a serious detrimental effect on the economy of the province and on consumer spending, as well as being the imposition of an increase in one of the most regressive taxes we could be using here in Ontario.

In total, this will bring in to this government additional revenues of \$750 million out of the pockets of ordinary working Canadians, the consumers of this province, who do not get a tax break on this item when they do not have the capital and the excess earnings to be able to put away into savings or investments. Those who spend almost all their income on consumer goods are going to pay the lion's share of this tax.

In the area of income taxes, we are getting another tax grab from this province totalling more than \$272 million as a result of the province taking a larger share of income taxes. Again, there are no accompanying measures which would see that the tax fairness that we all—certainly in our party—would like to see, and the people across this province would like to see, is included in revisions to the income tax scheme in this province and in the country as a whole.

Another very serious area of tax increases is in the area of gasoline taxes. We see a government with its bloated majority returning to the kinds of arrogant approaches to consumer goods that we had under the previous Conservative regime. Tax increases on gasoline were at least held in line to no increases whatsoever during the minority government of the previous two years, but now that the Liberals have been given a majority, they are back to the old Conservative scheme of continually increasing the costs of using our transportation network, a penalty which is most severe for drivers in northern Ontario and for drivers in rural Ontario in areas where they have to use vehicles to get around, where they do not have the kinds of transportation system that maybe Metro Toronto has. Those people are going to have to pay the freight in terms of these gasoline taxes. That tax increase is going to bring into this government an additional \$139 million.

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We also have many millions of dollars in increased taxes for tobacco products and alcohol products, again focused primarily on consumers, taxes that are paid predominantly by working people, and not nearly the kinds of progressive taxes we would like to see in this province. The province has done nothing in other areas of taxation instead of these tax increases across the board on working men and women in Ontario.

The New Democratic Party spoke up very strongly, as many other people in Ontario did, on the need for a speculators' tax. With housing prices going through the roof, particularly in the Metro Toronto area, working families cannot afford their own accommodation. Those who already have accommodation are in a very luxurious position, but for the new family or for a family that is moving into an area such as Metro Toronto, the costs of a mortgage are just too high for the typical person's income.

In fact, the incomes that members of this Legislative Assembly make would not be high enough to pay for the cost of the mortgage for an average home in the city of Toronto today. We are paid well above the average of income earners in Ontario, and still, at those income levels, one could not provide the assurances banks require to afford the mortgages that are needed in this area.

A speculators' tax would have gone a long way to stop the flips of properties, the wanton transfer of apartment buildings back and forth between investors simply for the purpose of capital gains, which as well are tax-free. Instead, what we should be encouraging is family ownership of their own homes.

Another area of taxation that has not been addressed in this budget whatsoever is one which concerns home owners in their home communities, and that is property taxes. We are at a point today where in many communities property taxes take a bigger bite for education in those communities than for their municipal government.

Through the Conservative regime going back to the mid-1970s and under the Liberal government, government has continued to reduce its commitment to education. Our school systems are now at a point where they are getting funds of approximately 44 per cent of the cost of running our schools across this province.

This province, and this government in particular, campaigned in the last election on a plan to move back to the historical figure of 60 per cent funding of the property taxes for education. It

was a recommendation that was made and endorsed as well by the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which I sit on, but like many of our recommendations to the Treasurer in advance of this budget, the Treasurer has ignored it and has not taken any steps to fulfil the needs and desires of the people of this province, and in fact, the commitment he and his party made in the previous election campaign.

Instead, the only area where we are seeing tax breaks is in the corporate sector. The true colour of this government has now come to the fore in this budget, where we see tax increases across the board to individuals and new tax breaks being given to the corporate sector. We have seen over the years a shift of tax burden from the corporate sector to individuals. One would have hoped that a progressive government, which this government sometimes touts itself as, would be moving in the opposite direction, but in fact this budget did the reverse.

There are new windfall tax breaks to corporations in terms of the manufacturing investment incentive, one of the first items promoted in this new budget. On page 4, we see that government is providing the Canadian manufacturing sector with a tax write-off of 115 per cent of the cost of new manufacturing machinery and equipment. This incentive has nothing to do with whether this is going to encourage investment in Canada and spending in Canada.

This government knows that, in total, we are running a surplus, but one of the areas where we are running our largest deficit in trade is in the area of machinery and equipment. Canada runs a deficit in machinery and equipment of—let me see if I can get the figure—well over \$10 billion. The most recent figure I have is a deficit of \$13.6 billion in balance of payments on machinery and equipment.

This tax break applies not just to investment in machinery and equipment here in Ontario or here in Canada, but in fact promotes and will continue to promote investment in machinery and equipment outside of Ontario and outside of Canada. The same tax break is given for companies that make their new investments in equipment outside the country as for those inside.

Surely this is an area where we should have been encouraging Canadian content by providing investors with a break for, if necessary, spending here in Ontario. It is an area where we are in severe deficit. We all have heard the story about the need for a mining machinery industry, for a forest products machinery industry, and about

the complete decline of our farm implements machinery industry.

These are products that are high value-added; they have a lot of labour involved with them. Instead, this government would rather see us continue to promote the export of raw materials, of commodity goods and let the Americans and countries around the world produce those high-value, high-technology products, and we are going to give our companies an extra break, a write-off of 115 per cent of the investment they are going to make in those products they are going to purchase from overseas.

When it comes to the items this government is proposing as the positives that are going to come out of this budget, what it is going to pay for with all these tax breaks, we have a list of initiatives in the budget. The first one mentioned here, following the manufacturing investment incentive, is technology initiatives.

Another area where the government continues to make its commitment to one area of the economy only is the high-tech sector located in southern Ontario. There is no recognition of the need to build and promote development in northern Ontario, to promote the development of new technologies that make sense for the resource sector, that will see us producing products out of our resources right here in Ontario, in northern Ontario where we need the jobs, where we still have an unemployment rate that is far too high in comparison to the rest of Ontario, an unemployment rate that is double the rate in southern Ontario.

Instead, this government to date has committed some \$275 million from its \$1-billion technology fund and virtually none of it has gone to northern Ontario. The major items in this promotion are the centres of excellence, which are good in concept and promote the importance of working together with our universities and building on research strength, but there is absolutely zero of those funds going to any universities in northern Ontario.

This government refuses to recognize that we need quality universities in the north, that we have to be able to educate the specialties in the north for the people we need to build new industry and even to promote and continue the industries we have, and to supply the people we need in social services and health services across the north as well. But no, this government will not invest in our universities in the north, it will not put research and development money into the north and it will not build technology centres in northern Ontario.

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This budget goes on. It talks about housing, an area which is an absolute embarrassment for this government. This government is doing virtually nothing to solve the serious housing problems of the province. Vacancy rates are as low as they have ever been in the province. The cost of new housing is astronomical. People are trapped in the homes they are in. They just do not have the opportunity to move to new communities and to establish their own families in their own homes on typical wages in the province today.

Going on within the budget to another major area of spending, the province is spending a record amount on health care, \$12.7 billion. I note health care has now reached the point where we are spending \$2 billion more on health care alone than we take in, in total, on personal income taxes in Ontario. But the people of the province are asking, "What are we getting in health care?"

I know that in northern Ontario, in particular, the government is not addressing the issue of services that are needed, such as giving our hospitals and our professionals in the north the capability to treat people where they reside rather than the continual promotion of people having to go to southern Ontario to the major teaching hospitals there, when the specialized care is only available in so many areas.

Certainly, the province should open its eyes to the kinds of events that occurred in Sault Ste. Marie last week, where a very serious and concerned group called the Concerned Citizens for Better Health Care held an open forum and invited the various hospital boards, which unfortunately declined to show up at the meeting. However, 700 individuals did show up at that meeting, showing the level of concern there is about the health care issues facing Sault Ste. Marie and the district of Algoma.

I have discussed many of these issues with the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) on a number of occasions over the last couple of months. We have not seen tangible action to address the specific concerns our community is facing with respect to serious health care problems.

The budget goes on to discuss some of the infrastructure in the province with the talk about roads, highways and transit. The province has committed some additional funds in this area but the amount is really negligible, particularly when one looks at the needs of northern Ontario.

The geography of this province, for anyone who looks at a map, tells one that the north is an area that is facing a serious competitive disad-

vantage because of the distances between the various communities and the costs of transportation to get products to markets. We just do not have the highway system to be able to do that efficiently.

Fifty per cent of the highways of the province are located in the north, an area that has about eight per cent of the population of the province, but those highways are not comparable to the highways elsewhere in the province. The highway that is supposed to be Canada's major connecting link, the Trans-Canada Highway, is really an embarrassment in comparison with what is the standard in southern Ontario, or for that matter, the standard in the United States and many other western-world countries.

In a committee of the Legislature, all three parties endorsed a recommendation that the Trans-Canada Highway should be upgraded and four-laned right across northern Ontario. Members of all three parties supported the following: "Through the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the four-laning of north-south Highways 11 and 69, and the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway in northern Ontario should be government priorities to assist with the development of industry and tourism in northern Ontario." Second, we also asked, "In addition to its own initiatives, the Ontario government should negotiate with the federal government a plan for financing the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway across northern Ontario."

What did we actually get? This is from a report that was prepared by the legislative research service in the province. "Included in the section on transportation is \$12 million designated for roads and highways in northern Ontario. There is no reference to any negotiations with the federal government on financing the four-laning of the Trans-Canada Highway across northern Ontario."

What in fact will \$12 million buy? Twelve million dollars will buy about 12 miles of double-lane highway or about six miles of four-lane highway. Across northern Ontario, we are talking about close to 1,000 miles that is required. We are looking at a time frame, for this government to do a project like that, of maybe 150 years, a totally absurd amount of commitment in comparison with the needs. There is nothing in there to start a program to phase in this kind of road improvement.

Let us look at what they did commit to northern Ontario, and that is the announcement in the budget of the heritage fund. We have an announcement that the heritage fund is going to

receive \$360 million over the next 12 years. Why did they not talk about how much we are going to get over the next 100 or 200 years? Perhaps we would have enough to pay for the Trans-Canada Highway. Even at that, the only real initiative for the province is a complete reannouncement of the government's initiative on the heritage fund from last year.

Last year, the Treasurer promised in his own budget the first \$30 million going into a heritage fund for northern Ontario. In fact, none of it went in, so he has come back and promised \$30 million again, a second time. How many times are we going to see the promises before anything actually gets spent in the north?

To have a significant impact in the north, we have to have a heritage fund of the order of \$500 million to be able to have a real impact in terms of capital formation and new investment in the north. Twelve years from now we may have a fund that is of some significant value, but today the \$30 million is going to be very little in terms of its impact in northern Ontario.

When one looks at the spending on individual communities over and above regular spending on single cities in southern Ontario, if one takes the community of Waterloo—in fact, the chairman of our committee represents the riding of Kitchener. Kitchener-Waterloo has two universities. The University of Waterloo alone gets annual funding of about \$120 million a year. That is special funding for that community, a very important economic development tool, but that \$120 million is double what northern Ontario gets in terms of its total university funding in a year. All our universities combined maybe collect about \$60 million from this government, but there we have one major university in a relatively small community, at least a lot smaller than the total population of northern Ontario, that gets \$120 million a year.

Now we are talking about a heritage fund that is going to put \$30 million into it. How much is \$30 million a year going to do for all of northern Ontario? It will not even buy a quarter of the cost of running a good major university, and that is supposed to be a capital fund, not an ongoing operating fund.

The figures sound great but when one looks at what one can buy with those kinds of funds, one sees how little it is.

Finally, I would like to say that New Democrats have always believed that northern Ontario can develop as a community economically, socially and culturally if there is the political will in a government to do so. We are a

community rich in resources. We are a great source of great wealth. But some of that wealth must be ploughed back into the north. That is why we have been calling for a real northern Ontario heritage fund.

Such a capital fund should be used for equity in loan investment in northern enterprises to diversify our economy. The fund should not sit there in artificial accounts, unused, promised from year to year. In the north we are a community where it has been the norm to watch our young people leave for the south when it comes time for them to look for work.

We could be creating jobs in manufacturing if we processed our goods in the north before shipping them to the south or to the United States. A vigorous program of responsible forest management would employ more people today to guarantee our forest resource for tomorrow.

In the north we are a community which has been seriously neglected over the years when it comes to educational and research facilities and technology development. It is vital that northern universities and community colleges be strengthened. It simply makes common sense that research into resources and their better utilization should take place where the resources are. The New Democratic Party has proposed in the past and will continue to promote the establishment of institutes, such as a forestry institute and a northern technology research and development institute.

In the north we are, above all, a community defined by our geography of wide-open spaces. We need transportation links and energy costs that will enable us to compete. The ruthless price-gouging by the oil companies in the north must be eliminated. We have one price for beer in Ontario; surely we can have one price for gasoline.

Without better, lower-cost transportation, hopes for a competitive, diversified northern economy are little more than a dream. I will continue to fight the battle for northern Ontario until the Treasurer and the government see or a future government sees that we do get our fair share.

The Acting Speaker: Does any honourable member wish to comment upon the remarks made by the member for Sault Ste. Marie? The member for Yorkview.

Mr. Polsinelli: I would like to compliment the member for Sault Ste. Marie for his statements on the budget that was brought out this year. The member for Sault Ste. Marie has indicated a number of interesting aspects of this budget, such

as the northern Ontario heritage fund, which will allocate \$360 million—a small amount—over the next 12 years, to help single-industry towns in northern Ontario, particularly to help them diversify their economies.

He has failed to point out a few other things, though, such as the fact that this year there are 27,000 extra jobs in northern Ontario that were not there last year. Mind you, those are not all the result of this government's initiatives. Perhaps they are a result of the better conditions or the conditions that are improving in northern Ontario.

Another element that the member from the Sault forgot to point out was the northern Ontario relocation program, or perhaps I did not catch it in his remarks when I got in. But our government's northern Ontario relocation initiative has brought, within the past couple of years, 1,200 positions. By the transference of new ministries to northern Ontario, 1,200 additional positions have been created in northern Ontario.

That staff relocation of about 1,600 people has an annual payroll of about \$48 million. This is \$48 million that will be spent in the northern economy by the people who are earning money there, who otherwise would not be earning money there. It will also result in an additional governmental expenditure of about \$200 million in northern Ontario to construct new buildings and new services to take care of these people.

That infusion of money in northern Ontario is a major initiative on the part of this government. It is going to be providing funding up there for people to subsidize and spend in the local economy.

The Acting Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to comment? The member for Sault Ste. Marie in reply for two minutes.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I appreciate the comments from the member for Yorkview, who has demonstrated his concern for northern Ontario in the past.

We have seen this government commit to 1,200 new jobs moving to northern Ontario, and that does have some impact in the north but it hardly compares with the tens of thousands of people who do not have jobs in the north. The member says the government created 27,000 new jobs, but there are more than that still unemployed in northern Ontario. Now the member is touting 1,200 jobs which are going to be phased in over a period of four or five years. That is a positive project, but this government has to do a lot more than just move in civil service jobs.

Those are the kinds of nice, safe, high-income jobs that we like to see in terms of security and ongoing employment, but we also have to try to build an economy that is self-sufficient, that produces the goods we want to out of the north and that provides the jobs so that the young people can stay in the north, not just working for the Ontario government.

That is why we have to look at a much more balanced approach than simply moving 1,200 jobs to the north.

Mr. Pope: I am happy to rise and address the budgetary and general economic policies of this government. I think those who live in Cochrane South, and all Ontarians, should know exactly what this Liberal government has done to them.

Mr. Black: Schools, hospitals, housing, roads.

Mr. Pope: First of all, we have a tax done to them. We have a tax increase that will amount to \$1.2 billion out of your pockets coming to the Liberal government of Ontario, which will allow it to increase its total expenditures as a government by over 11 per cent. The Liberal members of the Legislature and cabinet ministers will tell you that is for new capital expenditures, for new hospitals and new schools, these kinds of things that are of benefit to the community.

The truth is the budget clearly states that the capital expenditure budget for all ministries of the government of Ontario will rise from \$2.7 billion to \$2.8 billion, which is less than the rate of inflation and which is less than half the increase in construction costs in Ontario.

In fact, while they are taking \$1.3 billion out of your pockets, there will be less school construction and less hospital construction in Ontario next year. The Treasurer's budget clearly sets out the fact that the capital expenditures will only increase by less than the rate of inflation, from \$2.7 billion to \$2.8 billion. Therefore, less construction is obvious.

What the Liberals have done to you is as follows: First, they have increased the personal income tax rate to 51 per cent and then moving to 52 per cent of the basic federal tax for the tax year after 1988. So they have increased your personal income tax rate.

Second, for 1988 and subsequent years, they have applied a surtax on the income tax that you pay of 10 per cent of the Ontario income tax payable in excess of \$10,000. That means that if you are a miner working in Timmins and receiving a salary, as most miners do, of approximately \$40,000, because of the Liberal government you will be paying more personal

income tax to the province, plus you will be paying a 10 per cent surtax to the Liberal government of Ontario.

As well, you will be paying one cent a litre more on all grades of gasoline, effective on the date of the budget, and therefore the tax that you are paying to the Ontario Liberals per litre will go from 8.3 cents to 9.3 cents. Think of the Liberals every time you go to the gas tank, because they are responsible for it. In addition, there will be an additional special levy of three cents per litre on leaded gasoline for a total Liberal tax on leaded gasoline of 12.3 cents per litre. When you go to the gas pumps, I say to my fellow Ontarians, think of the Ontario Liberals who put that tax in place.

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If you happen to smoke and you go to the store and buy a package of cigarettes, just think of the tobacco tax that the Liberals are now imposing on you, a one-cent increase effective on the date of the budget, from 2.83 cents to 3.83 cents per cigarette. Thanks to the Liberals in Ontario you will be paying that much more, by 0.6 cents, from 1.6 cents to 2.2 cents, for each gram or part gram of cut tobacco. Think of that tax, if you happen to smoke, the next time you are at the grocery store or the corner store buying cigarettes.

The next time you go to any store and buy any household furnishings, think about the Liberals, because they raised the general retail sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent to accommodate their own interests down here in the Legislature of Ontario. We will be discussing that. It is not for the construction of new hospitals, not for the construction of new schools, not for the construction of more highways. Their capital expenditure budget is going up by less than the rate of inflation, so less will be built this year. Think of them when you go to that store, when you pay that eight per cent. It is a Liberal tax on every single man, woman and child in Ontario, courtesy of David Peterson and Robert Nixon.

Think of the Liberals, if you are a small businessman, when you look at the corporate tax provisions of this budget and how they are going to phase out the three-year income tax exemption for small corporations.

If you are involved in mineral exploration and development, think of Bob Nixon and David Peterson and the Liberal Party of Ontario and their phase-out of the depletion allowances. They did not introduce anything which will counter the detrimental effects of the phase-out of that

depletion allowance on the mining industry. Their own numbers show that their alternative proposals will not have as beneficial an effect as the depletion allowance did.

Think of the Liberals if you are involved as a prospector or a mining developer or a small businessman or a shopper in Ontario. Think of what the Liberals have done to you in this tax budget. Then listen to what the Treasurer and the Premier would have you believe. Even without the tax increases, there was room for a total increase in government expenditures, at 8.2 per cent. There was room for that kind of expenditure growth but, no, the Liberals were not satisfied with 8.2 per cent. They had to get it into double digits. They had to increase their spending by over 11 per cent. Think of that the next time you are paying additional taxes to the government of Ontario.

What are they spending it on? They would have you believe that it is new hospitals, roads, new schools. We have already indicated that will not be the case because of the capital expenditure forecast contained in the budget itself, an increase of \$2.7-billion to \$2.8-billion, less than the rate of inflation, therefore less construction.

But think of the additional civil servants that the Liberals have hired. Think about the additions to the personal staff of the ministers and parliamentary assistants that they have hired since 1985. Think of the fact that one of the first acts of this Liberal administration in 1985 was to increase the ceiling on the personal staff of cabinet ministers from \$45,000 to \$60,000. Think of that and think of the growing administrative bureaucracy that the taxpayers of this province are paying for. If you do not think that is what all of the revenues are going to, I have a few numbers for you.

This is a comparison of ministry administration costs between 1985 and this current projected year, 1988-89. Let us go down the list.

For the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, ministry administration, from their own Liberal documents: In 1985-86, they actually spent \$16,208,000 on administration of programs. What are they spending now? What are they going to use your tax increases to finance this year in administration here in Toronto in main office? I will tell you what it is: \$23,519,000—over a 40 per cent increase in ministry administrative costs since the 1985-86 financial year.

Look at the Attorney General's ministry: In 1985-86, it was \$827,000 in administrative costs; now it is \$984,000, an increase of

\$157,000, a 19 per cent increase in the last three years.

In Cabinet Office—here is a good one—administration of the Cabinet Office in 1985-86 sat at \$3,390,000. That is even allowing the Liberals the benefit of the in-year additions that they made to the operation of their ministries in the 1985-86 financial year after they came to power. Even setting that aside—because it was massive, and we documented it in the Legislature—even setting that aside, take 1985-86: By the end of the year, \$3,390,000 was being spent to run the Cabinet Office. This year, it is \$5,401,000—a \$2-million increase, or an increase of 60 per cent over three years in the cost of the Cabinet Office.

Look at the main office expense under that.

Mr. Mackenzie: That's called restraint.

Mr. Pope: Some restraint.

The main office expense under that is \$3,303,000 in 1985-86. This year the main office expense in the Cabinet Office is \$5,244,000, again a 60 per cent increase in the main office of the cabinet operations.

Let us look at Colleges and Universities: Actual administrative costs, even after all of the Liberal finagling in 1985-86, were \$3,062,000. Administrative costs, main office expenses this year, are \$5,912,000, a \$2,800,000 increase—over a 90 per cent increase in the main office budget allocation of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

I say to the taxpayers of this province, that is where your tax dollars are going. That is where the tax increases are going, to these kinds of uncontrolled administrative expenses; not to improving the quality of education in colleges and universities, not to improving the programs for farmers, but for administrative expenses here in Toronto.

Let us look at the Ministry of Community and Social Services administrative costs: in 1985-86, \$30,974,000; projected this year, \$40,660,000, an increase of greater than \$9,700,000—over a 30 per cent increase in three years since the Liberals came to office. Some constraint; some sense of financial responsibility.

Consumer and Commercial Relations, main office administrative expenses: in 1985-86, \$10,584,000; this year, \$18,028,000, an increase of over \$7.5 million—a 70 per cent increase in main office administrative costs that the working men and women of this province are paying for.

Correctional Services: \$16,514,000 in 1985-86. This year it is projected to grow to

\$21,629,000, an increase of \$5,115,000—a 30 per cent increase over the last three fiscal years.

The Office for Disabled Persons, main office expenses: In 1985, main office expenses were \$223,000. This year, main office expenses are \$421,000, over a 90 per cent increase in the three financial years since the Liberals came to power. That money is not going to disabled people; it is going into the main office of the minister, and it is a disgrace. That is what taxpayers are paying for, a 90 per cent increase.

The Ministry of Education: \$2,368,000 in 1985-86. This year, it will be \$3,292,000, an increase of \$924,000—almost a 40 per cent increase, and that is in only one year. I am sorry. I made a mistake. That is in only one year, a 40 per cent increase in administration in the Ministry of Education. In one year, a 40 per cent increase: \$924,000 more of taxpayers' money being spent in the main office right here in Queen's Park, this year over last year; a 40 per cent increase. That is what your tax increases are going to pay. I say to the people of Ontario that that is what those additional tax dollars are going to pay. They are going for administrative expenses and main office expenses right here in Queen's Park.

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In the Ministry of Energy in 1985, \$1,041,000. This year, what is it projected to be in three short years? It will be \$1,686,000, an increase of \$645,000—a 60 per cent increase over three financial years.

In the Ministry of the Environment, ministry administrative costs in 1985-86 were \$18,202,000. What is it projected to be this year, thanks to the taxpayers of Ontario? It will be \$30,137,000, a \$12-million increase in the Ministry of the Environment—a 66 per cent increase not in environmental programs out around the province but in main office administrative expenses here in Queen's Park.

An hon. member: And they are laughing about it.

Mr. Pope: And the Liberals are laughing about it. Ladies and gentlemen, it is your tax dollars going to pay for these ministry administration expenses. Here is the real waste we have been talking about. Here is where there need to be reform and restraint, and this government does not have the will or the way to do it.

In the Ministry of Financial Institutions, ministry administration budget, 1985-86, \$2,078,000. Projected this year, main office ministry administrative costs, \$4,113,000, an increase of \$2,035,000—a 100 per cent increase

in ministry administrative costs that the people of this province are paying this year, thanks to the Liberal sense of constraint and restraint in their own spending, in their own head offices, for ministry administration.

Let us talk about the Ministry of Government Services, and apparently they did not have a full-time minister last year. This is what we are told by the acting House leader, deputy Treasurer, whatever. The ministry administrative cost in 1985-86 was \$13,747,000. This year what are the Treasurer and the Liberal government offering for ministry administrative expenses in the Ministry of Government Services? It is \$19,765,000, an increase of almost \$6 million—a 44 per cent increase in three years. Imagine what it would have been if there had been a minister. It would have been totally out of control.

Out of that figure let us take the main office expenses of the minister himself, just the minister's main office expenses, 1985-86: \$746,560. What is it this year? It is \$2,178,800, a 200 per cent increase in main office expenses in the Ministry of Government Services.

It goes on. The Ministry of Health. Yes, \$88,227,000 was the ministry administrative expense in the Ministry of Health in 1985-86. What is it projected to be this year? It will be \$120,462,000, an increase of \$32,235,000, a 27 per cent increase. Main office expenses—that is even better: \$5,021,000 in 1985-86. This year it will be \$6,808,000, an increase of \$1,787,000, a 36 per cent increase.

Would that the hospitals would get that kind of financial support from the Treasurer and the Premier, the same kind of financial support they are giving the main office of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan). Would that the health care professionals would get the same care and attention as the minister's office has with a 36 per cent increase in its allocation.

In the Ministry of Housing, ministry administrative expenses in 1985-86 were \$15,814,000. What is it going to be this year? According to the Liberals' own records—and this is all according to the Liberals' own records: \$21,372,000, an increase of \$5,558,000, or over 35 per cent in the past three financial years. We have a housing crisis, and a reduction in actual budget allocations to the Ministry of Housing last year. What do we have? A 35 per cent increase in the allocation for administration of programs.

In the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, ministry administrative costs in 1985-86 were \$9,623,000. What is it this year? It is \$15,656,000, an increase of over \$6 million,

or over 60 per cent in the past three financial years.

In the Ministry of Intergovernmental Affairs, in 1985-86, ministry administrative costs were \$1,403,000. What is it this year? It is \$2,448,000, an increase of \$1,045,000. That is an increase in ministry administrative costs that taxpayers are paying of over 74 per cent in three fiscal years since the Liberals came to power.

In the Ministry of Labour—and here it appears that perhaps it might be reasonable—main office costs in 1985-86 were \$2,930,000. This year they are \$3,640,000, a difference of \$710,000, a 25 per cent increase. But ministry administration in the Ministry of Labour was \$12,803,000 in 1985-86. This year it is \$26,115,000, an increase of \$14,312,000, or over 110 per cent in the three years since the Liberals came to power.

In Management Board of Cabinet, the manager of tax dollars within the context of the government of Ontario, \$866,000 was spent to run Management Board in 1985-86. This year it is \$1,023,000, an increase of \$157,000, a 20 per cent increase in Management Board since the Liberals came to power.

Mr. Black: How many years? That's just the rate of inflation.

Mr. Pope: Maybe you will find that this is the rate of inflation: In the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, ministry administrative costs in 1985-86 were \$5,985,000. What is it this year? It is \$12,077,000, an increase of over 100 per cent in administrative costs in the three years since the Liberals came to power.

In the Ministry of Natural Resources, in 1985-86, it was \$60,560,000. This year what will it be? It will be \$75,517,000, a \$15-million increase, a 25 per cent increase since the Liberals came to power. The main office expense was \$4,125,000 in 1985-86. What is it this year? It is \$5,542,000, an increase of \$1,417,000, a 34 per cent increase in the three years since the Liberals came to power.

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In the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines—if anyone can explain this, be my guest—in 1985-86, ministry administrative costs, \$3,771,000. This year ministry administrative costs, in the Liberal documents themselves, are \$14,390,000, a 300 per cent increase in the allocation to ministry administration.

Main office in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, combined: In 1985-86 the costs were \$1,072,000, from the Liberal budget documents themselves. This year, according to the Liberal budget documents them-

selves, they are \$2,075,000, an increase of \$1,003,000, almost a 100 per cent increase in the main office expenses. Main office expenses, a 100 per cent increase—not for northern residents; for main office expenses for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines right here in Queen's Park.

Let us see what the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), our tax collector who collects taxes from Ontario men and women taxpayers, spends on himself for ministry administration. In 1985-86 it was \$16,972,00. What will it be this year? It will be \$23,906,000, an increase of over \$7 million dollars. That is over a 40 per cent increase in the three years since the Liberals came to power.

The main office expenses are even more curious. This is our tax collector who is collecting our tax dollars: Main office expenses in 1985-86, \$695,000; main office expenses this year, \$1,273,000. That is approximately an 86 per cent increase in the expenditures of our Ministry of Revenue in main office.

In the ministry responsible for senior citizens' affairs, ministry administrative expenses in 1985-86 were \$170,000. This year the main office expenses will be \$433,000, an increase of \$263,000, over a 150 per cent increase in main office expenses—not for services for seniors; in main office expenses—since the Liberals came to power.

In the Ministry of Skills Development, which has been a target for restraint and constraint by the Treasurer in this budget, we have talked about a reduction in the budget of Skills Development, but guess what did not get reduced? Ministry administration. In 1985-86 ministry administration was \$4,031,000. What is it this year? Thanks to the Treasurer, the Premier and the Liberal government of Ontario, it is \$14,941,000, an increase of \$9,930,000, a 220 per cent increase in ministry administrative costs since the Liberals came to power.

In the Ministry of the Solicitor General in 1985-86, \$10,867,000, according to their own figures, I say to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith). What is it this year? According to their own figures, \$20,661,000, an increase of \$9,800,000. That is over a 90 per cent increase in ministry administrative costs.

Main office expenses, in case we want to get technical: \$1,127,000 in 1985-86. What is it this year in the main office of the Solicitor General? It is \$1,846,000, an increase of \$719,000 in three years, a 64 per cent increase in her main office expenditures in the three years since the Liberals

came to power. She ought to be ashamed of herself, because it is taxpayers who are paying for this.

In the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, \$18,227,000 in 1985-86 for something called ministry administration. What is it this year? According to the Liberal documents, \$27,495,000, an increase of \$9,268,000 since the Liberals came to power. That is over a 50 per cent increase in ministry administrative costs, thanks to the ministers of Tourism and Recreation, the Treasurer, the Premier and the Ontario Liberal Party.

In the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, even the Treasurer could not hold the line. In 1985-86, ministry administrative costs were \$6,787,000. This year it is \$8,088,000, an increase of \$1,301,000, almost a 20 per cent increase in the ministry administrative costs of the Treasurer himself. No wonder he wanted to increase your taxes. No wonder he wanted 11 per cent more revenues this year to operate his government.

In ministry after ministry, in ministry administrative costs and main office expenses, this government has no sense of restraint, no sense of constraint, no sense of proper financial management and no sense of fiscal responsibility. The numbers are clear from the government's own documents.

Then we get to the sad games that the Premier and the Treasurer of this province have played on the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) and the people of northern Ontario. He deserves better treatment than he has been getting from the Premier and the Treasurer. He has been trying his best to improve services for the people of northern Ontario, and what happened to him? He got sandbagged by a Premier and a Treasurer who do not give a damn about northern Ontario. That is what happened to him.

The government announced, in its first year in office, a \$100-million northern development fund. The fact of the matter is that it was over five years, and that was two years ago. What has happened to it? According to the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister of Northern Development's announcement two weeks ago, it is going to be rolled into the northern Ontario heritage fund, which we will never see.

Then we have this curious Liberal policy whenever it comes to election time in the north. First of all, it was a \$100 tax rebate for every northern resident taxpayer in Ontario. Then it was equalized gasoline. That was the next one. What happened to those? Gone by the wayside.

And on the eve of the 1987 election, in January 1987, the Premier said, "We are sorry we are getting \$30 million from the softwood lumber tax in northern Ontario." He said in Sudbury, "We are going to put it back into retraining laid-off resource workers in northern Ontario."

Three months later that was cancelled. He said: "No, we're not going to do that. We're going to have a northern Ontario heritage fund, and that is where the \$30 million is going to go. The northern development councils will review the program and establish the criteria and make recommendations for the allocation of funds."

What has happened in the year since that announcement took place? Was the \$30 million deposited in a bank account in northern Ontario to collect interest and be distributed by the Minister of Northern Development? No. The Treasurer and the Premier would not give their own Minister of Northern Development the authority to dispense that \$30 million. They kept their hands on it, it is gone and no interest is there. That money is gone. We will never see that \$30 million they collected last year from northern Ontario industries under the softwood lumber tax provisions.

Now what do they say? They say, "Well, we're going to do it every year now for the next 12 years." We have yet to see a single cent spent. We have yet to see a program announced in detail. We have yet to see guidelines given to the northern development councils. The minister has tried. He has been sandbagged at every turn by the Treasurer, who does not want to let go of that \$30 million no matter what he says, and by the Premier, who is not making this a priority even though they announced it a year ago.

What did we find out?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We are doing better than with Davis.

Mr. Pope: That takes me back to 1985 with the announcement of the northern development fund. They announced \$20 million a year over five years. Then the estimates came out about a month later. The Liberals had reduced it to \$17 million, as estimated, and they actually spent only \$10 million of the northern development fund in that first year.

Guess what the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines of that year show? For a \$10-million expenditure item under the northern development fund, there is almost precisely a \$10-million deficit or reduction in the economic development and social development fund in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, so in fact the northern development

fund got not a single dollar of new money. It was taken from another envelope in that same ministry and spent under another title and there was no additional financial commitment from this government to the northern development fund.

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They have consistently underspent in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. They have consistently refused to support the efforts of the Minister of Northern Development in his attempts to get economic development programs going. It is fine for the Liberals to say, "Well, what did you do when you were there?" Let us talk about it, I say to the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Bossy) who thinks he knows everything about northern Ontario.

I recall a document called the BILD document, and under that document we had forest management agreements, pulp and paper modernization programs going on—

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: That is illegal now, you know that.

Mr. Pope: Oh, yes.

—pulp and paper modernization programs going on that gave long-term job security and community security across northern Ontario. We had forest management agreements that gave local employment opportunities in the reforestation industry, a lot of contractors to do development work in access roads and in actual planting.

We had the aeromagnetic survey program. If they think what we did was so wrong, why have they continued with it? We started the aeromagnetic survey program which is ongoing now, which has actually led to the development of new mines and the creation of new jobs in the mining industry of northern Ontario.

We had the core storage library program under BILD that the prospectors and developers needed to cut exploration costs and development costs for mining in northern Ontario. We had private tree nurseries that established small businesses in small communities from one end of Ontario to the other and created full-time and part-time jobs under the BILD program.

I say to this Liberal government, where are the specific economic projects in the private sector it can point to that it has created in the last three years which are developing new job opportunities for residents of northern Ontario? Point them out. Stand up now and name them. They cannot name a single project in the private sector, a new program that they have funded to create jobs in northern Ontario. That says something of the

mandate of this Liberal Party towards northern Ontario.

Their out-of-control administrative and main office expenses said something about what they think is a priority for the people of this province—not a better health care system, not improvements in education, but expenditures on themselves and 8,000 new civil servants.

We disagree with those priorities and we will not support their budget.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments.

Mr. Black: The member for Cochrane South would have us believe that only a former Tory government was a responsible government fiscally, that only the Tories knew how to manage the financial affairs of this province. He uses a great many facts and figures, and he is a man who is in a good position to do that. He is an experienced politician and he in fact was in the driver's seat at one time. He was a key member of the team that governed this province. He was, as all of us know, one of the fathers of underfunding.

He uses facts, but he does not use all the facts and he interprets them to his advantage. He would have the people of this province believe that this government spends most of its money on administrative costs.

Let us look at some other facts and let us examine the record. Under the last Conservative government in this province, for example, spending on schools for new buildings was less than \$75 million. That was in 1984-85; a Tory government. The following year, the first year of a Liberal government, that figure was doubled to over \$140 million. The year after that, the second year, it was tripled. Now we have the situation in the third year of a Liberal government that the spending on schools in this province has increased to over \$380 million.

The Tories did govern this province. They governed it by running up huge deficits and by consistently underfunding our schools, our hospitals, our roads and our houses. Now it is up to us to try to clean up the mess that has been left us, to try to right the wrongs that have been left behind.

Mr. Polsinelli: I was interested in listening to the speech by the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope). I think he proved one thing, that he can read numbers, because in the full half hour he was speaking, every second word was a number. Usually it is full of empty rhetoric; this was just empty numbers because he started talking about

the budget and, quite frankly, there were some things that were completely inaccurate.

I would like to point to one of them in the few seconds I have, and that is the issue he took with the new surtax that is payable on tax payable over \$10,000; that is, now if you have more than \$10,000 in tax payable, you have to pay a 10 per cent surtax. The member indicated that would kick in at an approximate income of \$40,000.

The reality is that the surtax of 10 per cent begins, if you are a single person, at \$85,000; that is, you have to earn over \$85,000 for the surtax to kick in. If you are married and have two children, it begins at \$88,000. That is consistent with this government's general philosophy of trying not to take very much from the low-income earners, but taking more from the high-income earners; that is, take from the people who can afford to pay and redistribute it to some of the lower-income earners in our society.

That surtax, which is expected to gain about \$110 million for this province, will be used, like some of the other taxing and revenue measures, to provide for the hundreds of millions of dollars in tax credits that we will be giving to low-income earners.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there questions and comments? Does the member for Cochrane South wish to respond?

Mr. Pope: Yes, I would like to respond. The numbers I quoted are from Liberal documents. The abuse of main office and ministry administrative expenses is clearly documented by the government's own estimates, tabled since they came to power, and they should be ashamed of themselves.

They claim they have improved the education system. We have got more students in portables than ever before in this province, thanks to Liberal administration.

They talk about the underfunding of hospitals while we were running huge deficits as Progressive Conservatives. Hospitals have never found it tougher to survive than they have under the Liberal administration. They are having to cut services to sick people because the government is spending more on the main office expenses of the Ministry of Health, as a percentage increase, than it is on hospitals. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. The office operations of the Ministry of Health are more important than the hospitals, according to their own statistics.

My friend talks about a redistribution of taxes. He talks about the Liberal philosophy of redistributing taxes. The only redistribution I can see is taking it from the taxpayers and paying it to

themselves to run the government of this province. That is the kind of redistribution that we, as Progressive Conservatives, will not accept.

They have got a disgraceful record of out-of-control ministry administrative expenses, main office expenses that they must account for to the taxpayers of this province. They have grabbed \$1.2 billion more of their money out of their pockets this year, and they do not want to justify it. They do not want to show the increase in administrative costs that has led to this increase. They ought to be ashamed of themselves. How could they even vote for this budget?

Mr. Matrundola: It is with honour and respect that I rise before this House for my maiden speech. While I have spoken briefly on other occasions, this is my first opportunity to address the House at some length.

As the first member for the new riding of Willowdale, I would like to thank all the members right here in the House for the warm welcome they have given me and for making me feel at home here in this Legislature.

I was not blessed to be born in this great country, as my children and millions of other people were. I was born in Italy, and at the age of 21, I immigrated to Edinburgh, Scotland. Then, in February 1963, I was blessed to immigrate to this great, vast and beautiful country, Canada, specifically to Seven Islands, or Sept-Îles, la capitale de la Côte-Nord. Du moins c'était la capitale de la Côte-Nord dans le temps, avant que M. Brian Mulroney, en tant que président d'Iron Ore, fasse ce qu'il a fait à Iron Ore et à la Côte-Nord. Let us hope that Mr. Mulroney will not do to Canada what he did to Iron Ore Co. of Canada and what he did to Sept-Îles and the north shore.

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I have long admired the type of democracy that is practised here in Canada. While I have been viewing the political system from behind the stage, I have always had a dream and a gut feeling that I could one day become part of it. I never lost faith. I never lost sight of my positive self-image and of my ability to get results. As Henry Ford said: "Think that you can, or think that you can't. Either way, you'll be right." I memorized that quote and I frequently remind myself of it. And finally, the incredible moment: the dream came true.

On September 10, the people of Willowdale put their faith and trust in me to represent them, to bring forward their views and to make decisions on their behalf and in their best interest.

I would like to take this first opportunity, right here from this honourable chamber, to thank them for the confidence they had in me and for the privilege they afforded me to represent them. I shall do my very best to carry out the duties bestowed upon me.

Willowdale, in the heart of North York, the fourth largest city in Canada, is a new riding made up of parts of the old ridings of Armourdale, York Mills and Oriole. The people of this riding have had excellent representatives in the past, including strong cabinet ministers such as the Minister of Health and Bette Stephenson, and they are used to their MPP working hard on their behalf. It is my desire to continue this tradition, to serve my constituents faithfully so that they will feel good and proud of the decision they made on September 10, and for having participated in the democratic process.

I have risen today to address the motion concerning the budget statement for the province for 1988 that was tabled on April 20 by the Treasurer. Unfortunately, due to the filibustering by the opposition, I was deprived of hearing my first budget speech here in the House, and so were many other new MPPs. I am sure it would have been a very eloquent address by our fine Treasurer.

This budget statement sets forth some of the initiatives and priorities of this government and addresses, I am glad to say, many issues of concern to the people of Willowdale as well as to the people of Ontario. While the government cannot solve every issue overnight, much as it would like to, it is taking an orderly approach to the most pressing matters.

Willowdale, like every other riding, is a unique area, but its people and the issues are not unique. They face many of the same issues as the rest of Metro Toronto and the rest of the province. Willowdale was mainly developed immediately after the Second World War and many of the people who moved in at that time are still living there. About 66 per cent of the dwellings are single-family dwellings and about 62 per cent of the families own their own homes.

We have in Willowdale a good solid base with English being the mother tongue, as well as another good base from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Downtown North York, which is in the centre of Willowdale, offers the most magnificent skyline of new and beautiful skyscrapers and it is home to many large corporations that provide work for thousands of people and a good tax base for the city with a heart.

One concern of the people of Willowdale is education. While many of the people who moved into Willowdale when it was being developed are still living there, the area is also rejuvenating itself by the inflow of families with school-age children. About 28 per cent of the population of Willowdale is between the ages of five and 24. The parents are concerned whether their children are getting the proper education to be able to be prepared for the future.

I am very glad, therefore, to see the large amounts of money that are being made available to elementary and secondary schools in order to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2, to provide for additional textbooks and other learning materials and to improve the availability and teaching of computer technology to students. We will be spending \$430 million on these projects over the next three years. The select committee on education will be further examining and exploring our approach to teaching to point us in the right direction so that our children can compete and succeed in this fast-changing world.

In the area of post-secondary education, it is refreshing to see the government's commitment to excellence. Additional funding to ensure accessibility and funding for capital projects will go a long way towards restoring our university system after years of neglect. In 1988-89, support for post-secondary institutions will be 41 per cent higher than it was in 1984-85.

Under all, is the land. Upon its wise utilization and widely allocated ownership depend the survival and growth of free institutions and our civilization. Through proper government, the land resource of the nation, and especially of this province, reaches its highest use and private land ownership its widest distribution. This government, by proper direction to regional and municipal governments, is instrumental in moulding the form of our communities and the living and working conditions of our people.

Such functions impose grave social responsibilities upon us, responsibilities each of us can meet only by intelligent preparation and by considering it a civic or a provincial governmental duty to dedicate ourselves to the fulfilment of our obligations to society.

I am prepared to assume this responsibility and discharge my duties to the best of my ability, and I trust that my colleagues both from the government side of the House and from the opposition will do likewise.

This leads to the area of affordable housing. The residential area of Willowdale offers a large variety of luxurious residences in both single-

family and high-rise housing. However, more affordable housing is needed to accommodate new families coming on stream, as well as seniors and the less fortunate.

I would like to see all the present residents of Willowdale have the option to remain in Willowdale, if they so desire, because while about 62 per cent of the people of Willowdale own their homes, we must still look out for the 38 per cent who rent and hope some day to own their own homes.

Willowdale is currently undergoing a large transition. With the development of the Yonge Street corridor, many single-family homes are being demolished to build larger ones or to build high-rises. While this accommodates more families, it causes the remaining homes to be pushed out of reach for the average family.

We should also be providing housing for seniors and disabled persons who may not be able to be completely independent but who do not have to be institutionalized. This government is addressing many of these concerns through programs announced in the budget.

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These programs include the Ontario home ownership savings plan, which is a good incentive for young people to start saving for a down payment for a home. Furthermore, the use of government land or the money raised through the sale of excess government land, as well as incentives and encouragements at the local and the municipal board levels, to plan for low and moderately priced homes, will make programs creating affordable homes possible.

Also, the lending of Canada pension plan money to nonprofit groups is a novel idea which does not cost us anything and will create another 30,000 affordable rentable units, thus accommodating many people on the long waiting lists, some of whom unfortunately are single parents with children and fearful of ending up in hostels.

We will also have to examine other programs in the future, such as housing allowance, so that people are not forced to move into subsidized housing. Rather, they should get a portion of their fair rent subsidized, in order that they may create many thousands of new units. This could alleviate or completely wipe out the long waiting list for subsidized housing. However, due care is necessary in this process to ensure that the amount of housing allowance is commensurate with the earnings of the applicants.

The area of health care is one that we are all concerned about. With costs increasing at alarming rates, a new and innovative approach

will have to be examined. I am sure that the Premier's Council on Health Strategy will be addressing this.

For the immediate future, however, we will be removing another 30,000 low-income earners from having to pay Ontario health insurance plan premiums, we will be increasing the operating and capital expenditures for hospitals and we will be rerouting some of the lottery profits to the health care system. In this way we will ensure that all citizens continue to have access to quality health care.

Another area that I would like to comment on today is transportation. The idea of co-ordinated policies, programs and plans to ensure the orderly development of the greater Toronto area sounds great and sounds simple, but it has not been done in the past. This has left us with insufficient transportation routes, which is threatening the further development of the city. With the new development north of Steeles Avenue, the traffic flow south on Bathurst, Yonge and Bayview is reaching unbearable levels and most people who try to drive on those streets would say we are already past that point.

This issue must be dealt with in the very near future, and ideas like the Sheppard subway and the extension of both the Yonge and Spadina subway lines up to Steeles Avenue, as well as a subway line along Steeles Avenue and the extending south of the Allen expressway, must be thoroughly examined. The completion of Highway 403 and Highway 407, as announced in the budget, I believe is a start in this direction.

Unfortunately all of the programs that I have mentioned have a cost. Nevertheless, the citizens of this province want these services and realize that they must be paid for. The tax increases that have been announced in the budget will pay for these services and keep the government's net cash requirement at its lowest level in 19 years.

While some of these tax increases seem harsh at first glance, the increased sales tax credits, property tax credits, OHIP exemptions and shelter subsidies will protect those less able to pay. As we are all aware, the time to lower the deficit is when the economy is growing. These measures will ensure that we can provide the necessary services now and will also give us the capacity to continue these programs if the growth of our economy slows down.

In order to ensure that the economy continues to expand, the government is committing to undertake the investment necessary to fuel the engine of economic development. The Premier's Council has called for a national strategy on

research and development, and along these lines the budget introduces several measures to encourage research and development, strengthens our high-tech workforce and prepares Ontario industry for the future.

As I said at the beginning, we cannot solve all these issues overnight, and the people of Willowdale, Metro and Ontario realize that. What we must do is chart a course to better the lives of all Ontarians. It is my considered opinion that this budget will accomplish that goal.

I have enjoyed the past eight months as a new MPP. I have learned a great deal, and I look forward to busy and exciting times ahead. I also plan to do my utmost to make sure that all of us do what we can to improve the quality of life for all Ontarians, as well as the people of Willowdale. I do not shy away from the issues. I confront them, and I do my best to resolve them.

I ran for public office because I believe in service. For years, I have freely and generously given my time to the organizations of my former profession, real estate, and I still do, not only at the local level but also provincially, nationally and, in a wider sphere, internationally. The experience I have gained over the years, I am positive, is an asset in serving this honourable House, the government and, above all, my constituents.

In closing, let us remember that the service we render is the rent we pay for the space we occupy. I urge everyone to support the Treasurer's motion on the budget so that we can continue to provide service to the people of Ontario and work to improve their lives.

Mr. Reycraft: I just want to take a moment to compliment the member for Willowdale for his speech. The speech is his first in this Legislature, the first of many, I am sure, and he has very eloquently expressed his understanding for his constituency. His sense of responsibility for the community that he represents in this chamber is very obvious from his remarks, and I am sure, given that and the abilities he has already demonstrated here, he is going to be a fine representative for Willowdale for many years.

Mr. Matrundola: I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague for his fine comments. Yes, it has been my first. I hope it will not be the last and that there will be many to come. We have to do our very best to work together and, as I said, to work in a positive manner in order that we can represent our people well, that we can serve our government well for the betterment of people's lives in Ontario. The attitude I always take when I do things is, if it is to

be, it is up to me. I hope the rest of the people in the House will take the same attitude and the people of Ontario will benefit, as well as all of us here.

Mr. Charlton: It gives me somewhat less pleasure than I would like to be able to express to get up and address the budget here today. I have listened with considerable care to the speeches of some of the new members on the government side and to the interjections of some of the new members on the government side during the course of this debate over the last week and a half. I thought it might be appropriate if some of those new members began to understand not only the comments that are coming from the opposition side, not always from the same perspective, but critical comments none the less in relation to this budget, and started to understand some of the background around those comments, and more specifically, if I try to enlighten them, as they seem particularly naïvely unaware of the source of the public anger around this budget.

1720

If they had known the Treasurer and listened to the Treasurer in this House over the course of the last 10 or 12 years as I have, and for even longer periods of time as some of my colleagues and some of those in the third party have, they would begin to understand the aggravation we feel and the insincerity in terms of what is being said about this budget and the needs of the government in relation to this budget.

I recall the last budget in this province that created a public response comparable to the response around this budget, probably not even quite as great. It was the former Conservative government budget in 1982. That was a budget that began the process of the Conservative Party collapse in Ontario. That was the budget that started the process of bringing this government to power.

Obviously, those who lead the government party in terms of its thinking—in terms of its government thinking, at least—have learned no lessons from the failures of the past administration. That is certainly reflected in the comments of some of the new members across the way, although perhaps they cannot be expected to be as familiar with the things that went on here over the course of the last 15 years.

If they had been here and listened to the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon), who is now the Treasurer, over the course of those years, they would be ashamed to hear the words that have come out of his mouth in 1988 in relation to this budget. They would all be

ashamed. I cannot understand how the Treasurer can say some of the things he has said over the course of the last three weeks with a straight face.

I recall in the late 1970s when the Treasurer sat just down here in the front row and I sat just back there. We used to have some cross-dialogue in terms of property taxation in this province and, more specifically, property taxes on his farm, which happens to straddle the boundary between Brant county and Hamilton-Wentworth, the bulk of the farm being in Brant and a small portion of the farm being in Hamilton-Wentworth.

I happen to have assessed the portion in Hamilton-Wentworth in the early 1970s when the province was going through the process of preparing for market value assessment. I recall an occasion when the Treasurer, because he felt the property taxes on his farm were too high, actually launched an appeal against the assessment on that farm. For the new members on the other side, so they can begin to understand, if the local authorities either in Hamilton-Wentworth or in Brant had done what this Treasurer did with the retail sales tax this year—well!

My colleague the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) pointed out very carefully during his speech a little earlier this afternoon that this portrayal by the Treasurer of a one per cent increase in the retail sales tax from seven per cent to eight per cent is not, in fact, a one per cent increase at all; it is a 14.3 per cent increase in the retail sales tax, or something in that range.

If either of the municipalities I have mentioned had sent a notice to the Treasurer setting out a 14 per cent increase in his property taxes, he would have been up on his feet and screaming, which is precisely what is happening on this side of the House and precisely what is happening out there across Ontario in relation to the tax increases that have been imposed by this budget.

He must not stand up in this House in his sanctimonious way and say to us, "We have to pay the bills and you guys are wrong," when, in fact, the man who is saying that would be doing the very same thing and does the very same thing when the feds increase taxes.

I heard a couple of the new members get up this afternoon and laud the fact that the cash requirements in this budget are the lowest in 19 years. Are those cash requirements the lowest in 19 years because of good management, because of fiscal responsibility, or because this government just shuts its eyes to all of the problems in terms of the way it operates and increases taxes to reduce that deficit? That is precisely what has

happened here and that should not make anybody happy.

If it has a problem the government paints over it, so it cannot be seen any more, by increasing taxes. We are in a time when the Treasurer in his budget predicts that inflation, the consumer price index, in 1988 in Ontario is going to run about 4.7 per cent. We are in a period where he is predicting in his budget that the total of personal incomes in the province will increase by about 8.5 per cent in 1988-89, and that corporate profits will increase by better than 14 per cent, I believe it is 14.4 per cent, in the same period.

We are talking about gross personal incomes and we are talking about gross corporate profits. Members opposite should just think of how cynical each and every one of them would have been three years ago or four years ago if the Conservative government of the day had brought down a budget that increased personal taxes in Ontario by \$1.3 billion, at a time when we are trying to keep inflation down, at a time when personal incomes are increasing at a much slower rate than corporate profits and all of the tax increases were extracted from personal incomes, and none of the tax increases were extracted from the corporate sector. The members opposite would be on their feet screaming foul. That is what they would be doing.

Instead, they buy the line, with a couple of exceptions; we have heard the rumours about the exceptions who have not, at least in their own constituencies, to their own constituents, supported the tax increases in this budget. They stand up and blindly defend instead of becoming part of the process that could help us ultimately to change the kind of approach that is being taken here and the kind of approach which, a number of my colleagues have pointed out, is in reality very little different from what we have had over the course of the last 40 years in terms of government in this province.

The only period that any of us could really describe as significantly different were the two years between May of 1985 and September of 1987. I want members to think about what it is that is happening here with this budget, what it is the Treasurer and the Premier are attempting to do in the spring of 1988, some seven or eight months after the election and some three years away from the next one.

1730

They are employing an old Tory tactic in Ontario, a tactic which I and the Treasurer stood in this House and criticized the Tories for using in the 1970s, that old tactic of have an election, get

your majority, bring in a budget, do everything in that first budget that is offensive, do everything in that first budget which causes pain, do everything in that first budget which gets segments of the society and the economy mad at the government and get it out of the way in the first year.

Again, that is an old tactic, and I want to tell the members opposite that it is not only an old tactic, but it is an old tactic that the public does not buy any more. I refer again to the Tory budget of 1982, where again they tried the same tactic after they got their majority back in 1981 and hoped that by 1985 the people of the province would have forgotten about all of the damage.

Mr. Wiseman: No tax grab like this.

Mr. Mackenzie: It's just second best, that's all.

Mr. Charlton: You did not do quite as good a job as the Treasurer did this time, I will concur.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. You will address your remarks to the Speaker.

Mr. Charlton: But, Mr. Speaker, it is a tactic which no longer works, and the members opposite should stand forewarned that what this budget has done, the anger and scepticism that it has generated out there in the public, the loss of trust that it is causing out there will affect what the Treasurer and the Premier are forced to do in every budget from this point on, from now until the next election. They are not going to be able to follow their plan the way they had intended.

They will start to react as the federal Conservative government has reacted. They will start to do whatever is necessary to try not only to stop the decline that is going to happen in the polls but to reverse that trend once the decline has been stopped.

It is a new political era in this country. It is no longer an era where governments entrench and stay in power for 40 years. Unfortunately, the Treasurer and the Premier brought in a budget on the assumption that it was their turn for 40 years, and it ain't going to happen. Public scepticism in this province and the loss of trust, which are already being expressed in the letters and phone calls—

Mr. Black: And the petitions.

Mr. Charlton: —and the petitions, are enormous. When Garth Turner, the business editor of the *Toronto Sun*, did his little survey with his mail-in cards, he was totally astounded by the response he got. And so he should be, because 10 years ago he would not have received that response, simply because 10 years ago people in

this province felt the Tories had been there forever and there was nothing you could do to change it. That is what they believed.

They no longer believe that. The people in this province have learned that governments can be made and governments can be broken by their own actions. This is what the government is going to see start to happen, from the day this budget was tabled and onward to the next election.

As well, I listen to a number of the members on the other side when they are responding to speeches from this side, making comments about increases in capital spending in education and health care, reductions in the deficit—

Mr. Black: You were listening.

Mr. Charlton: Oh, we listen. The member would be surprised. We hear more of what the Liberals say than they hear of what we say.

It is just interesting to note that the parliamentary assistant has pointed out a number of times that we tend to forget certain things in our speeches, and it is true. We do not focus on every single item in a budget. Certainly when we have a bad budget like this one, we do not go looking for the little good. It is too hard to find. It creates too many headaches to find.

But it is interesting how those on the other side conveniently forget a budget of just one short year ago, just three months before the election, a budget in which the government across the way talked about reaching out and touching somebody, reaching out and touching everybody, a budget in which the government across the way squandered \$1 billion in an effort to try to touch everybody in this province in some fashion and at the same time accomplish nothing except an election victory.

It bought them the election victory, and we grant them that, but this budget that we are here dealing with now and this fiscal responsibility that they keep throwing at us is in large part a result of the \$1 billion they squandered last year.

Can members imagine what we could have done in education capital spending with that \$1 billion, or splitting it with the health care system? Would we have been here talking about the need for \$1.3 billion in tax increases? It is interesting that the tax increases are only slightly more than what they squandered last year. Perhaps we could have avoided tax increases altogether this year if this government had been just a little more fiscally responsible 12 months ago instead of throwing all its eggs into an election basket and spending \$1 billion to ensure it would win that election.

They should not get up in a sanctimonious way and talk to us about fiscal responsibility, either, because what has happened over the course of the last 12 months, in my view, has been the most irresponsible set of budgetary decisions this province has seen in probably 20 years: spend \$1 billion, get themselves a majority, then raise taxes and make the people of Ontario pay for that election campaign out of their own pockets. That is the most disgusting set of circumstances I can recall in my political life.

Even aside from talking about history, let us take a look for a few moments at some of the priorities in this budget. Some of those across the way like to brag about the limited progress in a number of sectors, and they keep referring repeatedly to the capital funding which has been pumped into the education sector over the course of the last three years since the Liberals came to power.

Of course, I said we listen. We always listen, and we will not forget. We will throw all of this back at them in one way or another. The Deputy Speaker knows that. The Deputy Speaker has not been here all that long, but he has been here long enough to know that we listen. That is why he listens. Members should watch him. He listens better than anybody over there. He knows what is going on.

New capital spending for education facilities in Ontario in the 1998-89 budget: Let us forget about their four-year package for a minute. What did we get this year? We got \$91 million of new capital funds for the building of schools. That is all the Treasurer could find when the large public school boards—just the public boards, never mind the separate boards—were asking this province for \$1.7 billion. That is what they need right now in 1988 in new student spaces in Ontario. Those guys have come up with \$91 million.

Mr. Black: That is what they'd like, not what they need.

Mr. Charlton: That is what they need. How much did the Treasurer manage to find in new handouts to the corporate sector in this budget?

Mr. Black: You want us to spend more? Is that what you're saying, we're not spending enough?

Mr. Charlton: No, I am suggesting to you that your priorities are a little screwed up, though. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker, and you shall ignore the interjections.

Mr. Charlton: I shall. At any rate, it is my view that the Treasurer's priorities are seriously out of whack: \$91 million in new money to deal with a desperate crisis in terms of education facilities in Ontario. My colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke) was up the other day in the House talking about a school in Windsor which is falling apart. The roof is leaking all through the school, and they do not get a red nickel to deal with that facility.

But the corporate sector in this province got \$147 million of new handouts from this government: tax breaks, giveaways. Why, with a booming economy? I do not hear any of the members over there standing up and saying: "This sector of the economy is in trouble, that sector of the economy is in trouble." All I hear from over there is: "Ontario's economy is booming, and we did it. We're proud."

But the government had to come up with \$147 million, new dollars, that could have gone into our health care system, that could have gone into our education system. I hope it is proud of that kind of priority, where it gives one and a half times as much away to the so-called booming corporate sector, but it cannot find any more money for health care or for education.

Mr. Black: You don't want to keep people working. You don't want industry to expand.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Charlton: You are telling us how well the private sector is doing. You are telling us government should get out of the private sector, so get out of the private sector.

The Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker.

Mr. Charlton: Health care: We have a situation of absolute chaos in our health care system. We have a situation where this government was forced in this budget to increase health care spending, in one budget, by \$1.2 billion.

I have listened carefully to the rhetoric over the last number of years around health care and what has to happen in health care in order to try to start bringing the escalating costs of health care under control. The rhetoric started in this party in the mid-1970s, it moved into the Liberal Party in the early 1980s and it is even being talked about by members of the former government now, and that is the need to shift the emphasis of growth in our health care system away from institutions and into the communities: community-based care, home care and support services in the community.

What did we end up with in this budget? We ended up with \$1.2 billion of additional expendi-

tures on health care while the resources which are being placed in the community programs actually declined.

The member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty) has been here long enough and he has heard the debates around the change of emphasis we need to see happening in health care. He knows and he understands that if you have three-year waiting lists for nursing home beds and you have two-and-a-half-year waiting lists for chronic care beds, and community health services are much cheaper than those institutional services, you can eliminate those waiting lists much more quickly by putting the new moneys into community services, probably at twice the rate per dollar you would spend to get those people off the waiting lists by pumping the new money into the institutional aspect of our health care system.

But that is not what this government did. It spent an additional \$1.2 billion on the health care system and pumped virtually all of it into the system which the Minister of Health, the Treasurer, the Premier and others have been telling us for years is not the way to go for the future. Where did the Liberals lose the concept and the direction? It certainly is not apparent in this budget.

What has been done in this budget with the additional new \$1.2-billion worth of money that is put into the health care system is to put it into exactly those services that the Premier and the Treasurer have been telling this House for years, on the record—it is all there in black and white—were and are the wrong place to put it. Take the easy way out is what they have done.

I do not understand where all of the commitments that party across the way has made over the years have gone, in one quick budget, a budget that was most likely, or for the greatest extent, necessitated by a little fiasco that happened in the budget a year ago and the squandering of \$1 billion that they had to play with and did not use very appropriately, and now they are going to have to pay the price for those actions a year ago.

There are others who, I think, wish to join the debate on the budget, but I thought it would be useful in my comments to focus on some of what brought us to this budget and the so-called absolute need for what the Treasurer had to do. I thought it would be useful and interesting for some of the new members opposite to understand where the frustration and the feelings about the direction this budget sets that are being expressed from this side of the House come from. At least to some extent, with a couple of members over there, I think I have accomplished that.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any comments or questions? If not, are there any members wishing to participate in the debate? The member for Lanark-Renfrew.

Mr. Wiseman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to thank you for putting up with the member for Lanark-Renfrew. Over the 18 years I have been here and you have been here we have got a little greyer, but I think we just got a little better.

I would like to say that in the 18 years I have been here, I have never witnessed such a grab for money as this government did in this last budget. My leader the other day mentioned that it was not \$1.2 billion or \$1.3 billion but rather closer to \$1.8 billion, and that really is the true figure. There is always a little fudging there. Having had a son-in-law who is an accountant go over it quite fast, he picked out for me this little mistake of \$450 million that was not added to that amount; more about that later.

I have a farm manager at home, and she keeps me on track. I know the Treasurer has a farm manager at home managing the farm, as I do, and I am sure she has told her hubby that this grab was going to hurt the small farmers as well as the small businessmen. I am sure she has told him that around many quiet dinners since that occasion.

He had a growth of about 8.2 per cent in the budget to spend on whatever he deemed necessary, and that is about twice the rate of inflation. But instead of that, he brings in a budget, as has been mentioned before many times now, of about \$1.8 billion.

I would like to ask the Treasurer, if he were here, what he would do if he were talking to a little man in a nursing home whom I spoke to. He was saying that out of his comfort allowance his smokes cost him \$80 out of that \$112, and his bottle of liquor once a month costs him \$20. I said, "Well, you really don't have to smoke and you really don't have to drink," and he said, "At 82," or 83, "you're going to deprive me of that."

Now, I hate to go back to that fellow. He had only \$12 left after that, and now the Treasurer has taken all of that \$12 in the amount he has put up the tax on cigarettes and liquor. I do not smoke and I do not drink very much, so it does not really affect me. They are always known as sin taxes, but this man just happens to represent a fair number of those poor people out in nursing homes. That is all the comfort they feel they get out of life.

The gasoline tax: I am glad to see that my friend from the Belleville area is here, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil). We did have a discussion last night in the lobby of our hotel where we stay. I do not know how he justifies saying that this budget is going to help tourism in Ontario. When he goes back to Belleville or eastern Ontario and says that he is raising the tax on the gasoline that goes into most of the outboard motors by 18 cents a gallon—we know what happened to Joe Clark when he and Mr. Crosbie brought down a budget a while ago where they took an 18-cent grab. The Liberals of the day in Ottawa jumped on that and really hammered the dickens out of them and won the election.

Here we see this government taking 18 cents and saying it is going to help tourism. It says the one per cent on the sales tax is going to help tourism too. That goes on the food, the accommodation, the whole bit. I think it is kind of hard to sell that we have something in there for tourism. In fact, in this budget there is very little, if anything, for eastern Ontario. I did make a statement that if I were one of the cabinet ministers who sat around that cabinet table when eastern Ontario was discussed, I would be disgusted not to get something in there besides an honourable mention.

The income tax: This is where I say the Treasurer forgot to add the \$450 million. Those figures really get me. Added to what we have been saying, to the \$1.2 billion or \$1.3 billion, it brings it up to more like \$1.8 billion.

The sales tax is going up one per cent. I wonder what the Treasurer would tell a person who comes in to a store. I think now of something that I and my family have an interest in, a shoe store, where a child, an infant, six months to eight months of age goes in for a pair of new boots and the family has to pay sales tax because most of those boots are now over \$30. These boots, whether they are Savage, Buster Brown or whatever, run around \$34 or \$35. You have to pay tax on the little infant boots, and now it goes from seven per cent to eight per cent. Would it not have been nice if the Treasurer had seen fit, in his wisdom, to move that \$30 up a little? It has been the same ever since we brought it in years ago, without any increase at all.

On the sales tax too, I think we should look at the additional tax a family of four is going to have to pay. This is what I will be telling the people in Lanark-Renfrew: "Look, you are paying about \$112 more tax this year than you were last year. In the space of a year, you are looking at about

\$900 coming out of your income to pay for the sales tax."

I should say, and the Deputy Speaker will remember this, back a few years ago when I was in cabinet and we were both a little younger, sales tax represented about \$300 million or \$400 million for each per cent. Now one per cent, with the growth in the province and the whole bit, represents \$1 billion. This is one area where the Treasurer, since he has taken over and there have been good times in the province, has seen a growth.

On top of that, today we heard on the news—we know that when this government took over, it lost its triple-A rating—that just by the skin of its teeth it has held on to the double-A rating. The people who set this rating are looking at the fact that if there is a downturn in the economy at all, because of the government's spending and because of the way it is doing their finances, it is quite possible that before this term is over the government will have only an A rating. We all know what that means to the taxpayers—all the debt and the debt load and the interest that we have to pay on that.

I am glad to see the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) in the House. The school boards in the portion of Lanark and Renfrew that I represent did not do quite as well as those in the portion represented by the member for Renfrew North. I do not know why, but we did not. And we did not do quite as well as the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South). But I would like to say that I felt we deserved some attention in some of our requests for our school boards.

One of them I mentioned in a statement the other day, and that was for the R. Tait McKenzie School for the handicapped in Almonte. That school is so crowded, they tell me, that they have had to use the kitchen facilities to accommodate students who have been put out into the community by Rideau Regional and who are overcrowding that school. It is not a fancy school, I tell the members. It is just a plain school where we can get three classrooms for \$94,000, so we all know that is not building it too fancy. But this is to accommodate special bed-chairs that these people have to have and special wheelchairs.

Here we are, we have the Ministry of Community and Social Services saying they should be out in the community, and if they can function out there, I am all for it. But I think the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) should be meeting that commitment. I have nothing against day care, but when we see over \$2 million going into day care in the Ottawa area and forgetting a

school like this for the handicapped, I think they are just as important and should be looked after.

When we see school roofs leaking, and giving a lot of problems, what are we supposed to do? Are we supposed to wait until the roof caves in to have them repaired? Many of our requests for the Lanark County Board of Education were for roof repairs. We all know if you do not repair that, then the costs become greater and greater. We are not asking for fancy schools; we are just asking that the schools that are there be maintained the way we want to maintain our homes.

At the same time, it is pretty hard for us to sell this large tax increase. At the time when I was in cabinet, we were reducing the number of civil servants in this province. We have seen in the first two years the Liberals bring back about 5,000 of them, and in this budget there are almost another 3,000. We all know what that costs us. Probably the biggest part of our one per cent sales tax is going to pay the wages and the fringe benefits and everything of bigger government.

You see in the halls some of the people, Mr. Speaker, whom you would recognize maybe more than I would, who were with Mr. Trudeau when he was in Ottawa, and now they are up here. We know what happened and what Mr. Trudeau left the Tories with in Ottawa: a great big deficit and big government. Those people are recommending, it seems, to this government and to the Premier, along the same lines. Persons like yourself and myself, who have been here longer than most, can see what is taking place here. I know, Mr. Speaker, you are very neutral and you

could not say anything along those lines, but I am sure if you could you would.

It is pretty hard to tell the people back home who need roads like the extension of Highway 417, which had been agreed upon by the member for Renfrew North through two or three elections and Paul Yakabuski, who represented Renfrew South, and with this last election the member for Renfrew North said that he was in favour of extending Highway 417 even further. We have seen him in a high place in cabinet and we have not seen Highway 417 move along at all.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Oh, oh, oh.

Mr. Wiseman: Well, there is one little bypass there.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The 406 is coming.

Mr. Wiseman: No, I checked that—

Mr. Speaker: The member may just take note of the clock.

Mr. Wiseman: Well, Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on, and you know I am not a very windy person. With this government and what it has done, I could speak for an hour or two without any notes, but thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

Mr. Speaker: Does anyone care to adjourn the debate? Perhaps the member would adjourn the debate. Some other members may wish to have some comments or questions on your remarks.

On motion by Mr. Wiseman, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
54	2883	1	8	Mr. D. S. Cooke moved resolution 20:
54	2893	1	23	Mr. Eves moved resolution 25:

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
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 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
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Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
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 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
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 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
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Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, May 5, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 5, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

INFORMED CHOICE BY PATIENTS ACT

Mr. Dietsch moved second reading of Bill 123, An Act for Informed Choice by Patients.

Mr. Dietsch: Today I rise to speak on my private member's bill, An Act for Informed Choice by Patients. I know this bill will not meet the needs of everyone, whether they be here in this Legislature or in our constituencies back at home. I also know that, as strong as I am in my convictions, there are those who have opposing views. This is not unlike many issues we will deal with in this Legislature. However, this issue is different. This issue deals with a principle, and that principle is life.

Let me bring you into the Legislature as it unfolded for me and those who arrived as the class of 1987. Morgentaler's case was before the courts waiting for a decision. The previous Minister of Health, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston), in March 1987 had outlined a number of women's health care initiatives. These were to provide a co-ordinated comprehensive approach to meeting women's health care needs across this province. Service provided by the centres would include a wide range of education, counselling and referral services such as family planning, infertility counselling, premenstrual syndrome and menopause education and support, counselling on alternatives to abortion and pre- and post-abortion services.

The provision of abortion services in accordance with existing law was one component of a comprehensive women's care program. Within that framework, abortions were only to be performed in a hospital setting and only on the approval of a therapeutic abortion committee.

In December 1987 the member for Oriole (Mrs. Caplan), the new Minister of Health, announced the first women's health care centre at Women's College Hospital. The hospital received \$1.5 million in ministry funding which was to provide a wide range of education, counselling and referral services. The centre has

a staff of 45, including doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, health educators, ultrasound technicians and support staff. Women will be able to attend the centre through self-referral or by the referral of a physician, health professional or community agency.

As a health education resources centre, it will offer a wide range of written and audio-visual information on reproductive health. Services in the new women's health centre will include individual and group counselling in family planning and contraception, pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The centre will provide other physical examinations for pregnancy assessment and diagnosis and referrals to other services. Infertility counselling will be provided. A premenstrual syndrome education and support program will assist women. A menopause support program will provide counselling and treatment. Services for pregnant women will include counselling on alternatives to abortion and support for single mothers.

On January 28 the system changed entirely. The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that section 251 of the Criminal Code dealing with abortion is unconstitutional, which brought an end to the charges against Drs. Morgentaler, Scott and Smoling. The Supreme Court decision takes Canadians, in my view, a step backwards in their quest for a just society. The right of the women to autonomy is upheld and the right of the unborn is quashed.

On February 8, the Minister of Health's statement in the House said: "My ministry's legal opinion indicated that the Ontario health insurance plan is obliged to cover these procedures effective the day of the Supreme Court decision." These payments, of course, are to be at the OHIP rate and extra billing regulations will apply.

It also stated that the ministry is moving to "ensure that only qualified medical practitioners perform abortion services in approved facilities inside and outside hospitals." Medical standards were established. Quality of care was assured. "Appropriate funding mechanisms are in place," and "counselling, including counselling on alternatives, is provided before the procedure and as a follow-up.... These regulations will prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of commercial and/or

unregulated abortion clinics, a scenario made possible by the Supreme Court decision."

On February 12, the Ontario Public Hospitals Act was amended. All Ontario hospitals were notified that approval by hospital therapeutic committees was no longer required to perform abortions.

We know that the federal government has a responsibility to develop the Criminal Code legislation, but the delivery of health care is under provincial control. I feel it is important to set a stage because I, along with many of my colleagues, have had ongoing discussions with the Minister of Health since we were elected and I feel she listened and has implemented some positive programs.

Do not lose sight of the principle. There may very well be areas that are not workable within my bill, and I am willing to accept that criticism; however, I feel there are many positive attributes involved with women's health care centres. I also feel there are many positive points addressed in this bill.

I bring this issue before the Legislature knowing full well it is a sensitive issue. Some would consider that I am suggesting interference with a decision made according to a woman's choice, and I guess I am; however, I feel it is with just cause, because I feel there is an element in this equation that is not being justly treated.

1010

Everywhere in the western world we seek protection and aid for the weak and the most vulnerable members of society. Children's aid societies protect mistreated and neglected children. We finance homes for battered women and the elderly. We support institutions for the mentally and physically handicapped; innumerable volunteer organizations look after the disadvantaged of one kind or another; and many countries, including our own, have abolished the death penalty for serious crimes. Yet many of the same people have adopted the killing of the unborn as a legal and normal practice. I speak of abortion.

Am I confused? Is there not some kind of contradiction? If we believe protection of the most vulnerable and the weakest in our society from threat to be representative of the highest and noble within mankind, a victory of an enlightened human reason, can we do otherwise but regard legalized abortion as the least noble to mankind? If this self-contradictory attitude is quite within the perception of those considered pro-choice, who argue that it is for each individual to determine whether abortion is right

or wrong, if bringing a conclusion to the life of the unborn is a matter of personal choice, consider: why not abusing or molesting the born life?

If every woman has the right to control her own body why are we, as a government, requiring the use of seatbelts or the wearing of hard hats on construction sites? Why should we spend money on antismoking campaigns? Constituents have asked me what our view would be of an individual who showed up at the hospital Thursday morning requesting any particular part of his or her anatomy to be removed. Would we pay for these items under the Ontario health insurance plan?

By asserting that abortion is a private matter, we deny we have any responsibility for each other by defining life's value only in relation to society or those affected by a life that denies life's inherent value. It is impossible to support a pro-choice position without at the same time arguing that certain human lives should be sacrificed for the convenience of others.

Defending the life of the unborn is on many occasions presented as a religious issue, and albeit for some it is. It is also planted deep in natural law and was first developed by Greek philosophers, not Christian philosophers. It is biology, not faith, that tells us that a fertilized ovum is the earliest form of life.

There are those who argue that the unborn are not persons, and therefore do not qualify for the rights of the born. However, no one has shown how physical human life is to be separated from personhood or why or how personhood should or could start at any time other than the beginning of life.

Many would argue that the psychological trauma that would be created by Bill 123 and its administrative procedures would create a serious psychological aftermath. I respectfully submit that it would probably be no more than the psychological dysfunction found after abortion is carried out. A report on post-abortion syndrome has symptoms of repressed grief occurring six months to two years after the trauma occurs. Research has shown a much higher percentage of women negatively affected by post-abortion syndrome.

Individual clinical studies and work done by Dr. J. William Worden, psychologist and professor at Harvard medical school, in his report on grief counselling and grief therapy, are examples; as is the work of Dr. Edward Sheridan, psychiatrist and professor at Georgetown University, and Dr. Philip Nye, psychiatrist and

professor at University of Otago in New Zealand.

Those are just a few of the reasons I feel it is important to ensure that women have those kinds of information before making decisions. It is important that we do everything we can, from a provincial perspective, to prick the conscience of the women considering snuffing out the lives of the unborn.

I can also appreciate and understand the difficulties when people refuse to carry out their duties. However, one must appreciate the severity of the request. Surely, any Legislature which values individual freedom and autonomy enough to believe that a mother should be free to terminate her pregnancy would also allow the health professional the freedom to be governed by the dictates of his or her clinical conscience.

Surely no one of us would seek to impose on any health professional a requirement to commit what for that health professional could well amount to infanticide, the taking of an infant's life. If these procedures are going to be carried out, the individual should be treated on a basis comparable to other jurisdictions.

Many American states have abortion conscience statutes, as do many other countries. It has been held up in the Florida courts, when Margaret Kenny sued the Ambulatory Centre in Miami. An employer must reasonably accommodate an employee's religious practices unless the employer establishes that the suffering of undue hardship was the basis used in the decision.

Four Toronto hospitals have statements in their employment applications preventing nurses from objecting which read: "I agree that my personal opinions, private or religious beliefs in respect to certain hospital procedures will not prevent me from carrying out my assigned duties and responsibilities."

This bill provides that the foetus which could survive outside the womb—that is to say, a foetus which might survive the abortion—shall be resuscitated by all reasonable medical procedures likely to preserve its life, unless those procedures would endanger the mother. A foetus which is extracted from the womb after an age when it could survive outside the womb is not the object of what we ought to call abortion; rather, it is a child being born.

The incidence of a child aborted alive is very low; however, research done in California recently suggests that it would be about 1.3 per cent of the time. I mention, however, that with an average of 28,000 abortions annually in Ontario, that would represent about 340 babies. Even though the incidence might be low, the actual

numbers of human beings are not low. All I am saying in the bill is that when it happens, the baby be treated the same as if it were a premature baby and be given the medical attention to stay alive.

I recognize that there are many areas of this bill that would cause some concerns to members in this House. It is the principle I would like members to deal with. It is the principle I ask members to consider. If we, as members, can slow down or cause women to reconsider or prick their conscience, to change their thought, I respectfully submit we have made great inroads in Ontario.

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the debate. I am standing in my place to indicate to the member that I cannot support this bill because I do not think it is a basis for consensus in the House and I do not think it will be the basis for consensus in terms of what will ultimately be determined, either federally or provincially, to be the law.

I appreciate the concerns and the sentiments that the honourable member has expressed, as I am sure all members do, but I say with great respect to him that in a sense he is asking us to do something which the Supreme Court of Canada has told us that in some respects and in some ways we cannot do. It is simply not possible for us to carry on as legislators as if the Supreme Court did not make the decision it made, and it is not possible for us, as members, to make decisions in this House without showing some understanding for what the situation is today with respect to the law.

1020

I think it is important for the House to recognize that we are going to be faced both federally and provincially with some questions that are going to need to be resolved, but I say to the member that I do not think this is the way to proceed.

I think the member indicated—I hope I am not misquoting him because I listened carefully to what he said—"I may be accused of interfering with a woman's choice," and then he said, "I guess I am." If he reads the judgements of both Mr. Justice Dickson and Madam Justice Bertha Wilson, they make it very clear that the sections of the charter that set out the protection of liberty and security of the person refer very directly to the question of the woman's right to exercise a choice, and that governments cannot be arbitrary in the way they limit that choice and cannot be arbitrary in the way they interfere with that choice.

I say to the member that by his own admission, the act he is proposing is an interference with choice. I was not writing down quickly enough to catch precisely what the member said, but I would say he had some very highly charged things to say with respect to the respect for life that those who take a pro-choice position have. I say very respectfully to him that this does not help us in our task of trying to build a consensus.

I remind him that the majority of the people in this province, indeed the majority of the people I represent and I suspect the majority of the people he represents have a respect for life, have a respect and concern for the family and have a respect and concern for autonomy of women. We are all wrestling with these moral issues. It does not advance anyone's cause if we argue that those who take one position or another have a lesser sense of the importance of these issues.

What we are facing is a reality that I can best describe to the member by my own political experience. I am not exactly an old-timer, but I have run in six elections. I can well recall that in the first election I ran in federally, I was of course questioned by many groups, including those who are very much opposed to abortion and very much opposed to women exercising a right to choose.

I can remember an all-candidates' meeting when people were asking me some questions on abortion and how I felt. I gave the position of the New Democratic Party, which I believe in very strongly; that is, in a pluralistic society such as ours, we have to recognize the realities of choice and we should not be using the Criminal Code to enforce the moral view of one group of society when it comes to the exercising of a moral decision.

I was then very severely criticized by those who are opposed to this position and perhaps reflect more closely the views of the member for St. Catharines-Brock who has just spoken. I said to them, "Let's ask the people here." It was an all-candidates' meeting. They were not people of any particular political view; in fact, they probably represented a cross-section of political partisanship.

I asked the simple question, "How many people here think we should all be reflecting, in our laws, the value of and respect for life?" Everybody put up their hands. Then I said, "How many people here think that the question of abortion is essentially a private moral decision that has to be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor?" The vast majority of people in that room put up their hands.

We are faced with the reality that in exercising this choice women are exercising a choice that they think is theirs and that the majority of society thinks is theirs. At the same time, we have a Supreme Court decision that has indicated quite categorically to legislators what the limits are on our power to let our views or the views of individual members of the Legislature prevail over the views of women who want to exercise the right to choose whether or not to terminate a pregnancy.

Let me emphasize that I very firmly believe this is a question we will be wrestling with and debating among ourselves for a considerable period of time. I do not pretend to have all the answers and I do not pretend I have solved some of the very difficult questions that are being raised and discussed, but I want to say, with great respect to the honourable member, that I do not think his bill helps us in our efforts to deal, not only with what we think should happen but also with the realities of the world with respect to what the court has told us.

If I can be quite specific in terms of the bill he is proposing, he is suggesting an interference with the right to choose. It is called an Act for Informed Choice by Patients, but I would say with great respect that what this act is designed to do is to discourage women from exercising a right to choose. I think it is fair to say that, and I hope I am not exaggerating.

I read the words "the nature and likelihood of any risk of physical and emotional harm that may be suffered by the patient as a result of the abortion." It is loaded with a viewpoint that is the honourable member's viewpoint, but may not be the viewpoint of the woman who is deciding that she wants to terminate her pregnancy and is making that choice on the basis of what she considers to be an informed decision.

Should the woman discuss this question with her doctor? Yes, she should; and of course the doctor will discuss it. Should there be counselling for women who are making this decision? Yes, there should be. Should there be counselling both before the abortion and after? Yes, there should be; but it is not for this Legislature to dictate to anybody what form that counselling should take; nor is it for us to interfere in that relationship between the woman and her doctor and say to the doctor, "This is what you must tell the woman and this is how you must respond to the questions she is asking."

I say with great respect to the member that I do not think we can do that. I do not think a court would accept this as constitutional, but I am not

going to hide behind that. I do not think it is the way in which we should be proceeding because I do not think it reflects adequate sensitivity to the question of a woman's right to exercise her choice.

The question will be raised, "Are you saying then that you think foetuses that are 28, 30 or 32 weeks should be aborted?" I say with great respect to the member, no, of course not. I must also say with great respect to the member that this is not what is happening today in Ontario; this is not what is happening across the country.

The reality, and again one can listen to accounts that have come from a great many people, is that of course all doctors are aware of the changing nature of medical science and are aware of the changing realities of the world in which we live, and abortions are not being performed in this province or anywhere else after 20 or 21 weeks.

In fact, if one talks to people who have been actively involved in the abortion clinic movement in terms of the rights of Dr. Morgentaler and the other doctors who have been working with them, their whole premise has been, "If you get rid of the interference with a woman's right to choose, when a woman makes that choice will be made much earlier in the life of the pregnancy, precisely because we will have removed all the artificial barriers."

I say to the member, with great respect again, that if we have inspectors coming in, people who are going to be policing this and a reporting system where confidentiality is not there, it means more information is being more widely shared.

I am very troubled by the implications of the bill. I appreciate the sentiments behind the member's moving it, but I do not think he is on the right track.

Mr. Jackson: I would like to express my support for Bill 123, An Act for Informed Choice by Patients. This legislation in my view is overdue. It will ensure that a most serious decision is made in a most serious way and it respects the conscience of our health care workers.

It is ironic that this bill comes from a member of the Liberal Party. After all, less than three months ago, on February 9, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) stood in this House to claim that only the federal government could pass laws to protect the interests of the unborn child.

As they sometimes say, "Out of the mouths of babes...." Well, out of the mouths of babes and back-benchers sometimes come the most pro-

found statements. Here we have a Liberal back-bencher, elected just last year, introducing a bill that the Premier, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Minister of Health said could not be introduced. We in this party are not at all surprised.

1030

As soon as the Supreme Court handed down its January 28 ruling on the Morgentaler case, the Progressive Conservative caucus at Queen's Park met to develop its response. Our position on the issue has been straightforward. First, we want the federal government to bring in a new law that will protect the rights of the unborn. Second, we want the provincial government to use its constitutional power over the administration of health care to regulate abortion in a manner that gives consideration to the interests of both the mother and the foetus. In fact, the leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party has written to both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health in support of this stand.

While the federal government adopted our suggestion and is at this moment preparing legislation to replace section 251 of the Criminal Code, the Liberal Party of Ontario has refused to acknowledge that it, too, has a role to play in this most important issue.

To argue, as this Liberal government is doing, that abortion is entirely a federal matter, is nothing less than a copout, somewhat of an abdication of its responsibility. The Constitution says that while only the federal government can put abortion in the Criminal Code, provincial governments still retain jurisdiction over the administration of health care. Progressive Conservatives believe the Ontario government must not shirk that responsibility.

Provincial legislators cannot make the crucial abortion decision; that, of course, is up to Ottawa. But that is not what Bill 123 tries to do. Section 2 says, "The purpose of this act is to establish administrative procedures for hospitals applicable to the performance of abortions in Ontario." That objective is clearly and constitutionally within our competence as provincial legislators. It is exactly what the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) was calling for and exactly what this Liberal government has refused to do.

This bill is not a substitute for federal legislation. We should not have to choose one or the other; we actually need both.

Section 251 of the Criminal Code needs to be replaced, but that clearly is up to Ottawa. There is a need for a provincial law which deals with administrative matters pertaining to abortion, a

law which protects women's rights to informed consent, a law which would allow doctors and nurses to follow the dictates of their conscience without fear of retribution. The federal Parliament cannot do these things; however, we can.

I should also take this opportunity to remind members that despite a lot of confusion in the public and in this House, the recent Supreme Court decision does not stop governments from making laws on abortion. In 1973, the US Supreme Court said abortion was a right. Some people assume our courts did the same thing.

For example, the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) told the House on February 8, "The Supreme Court of Canada recognized that abortion is a private and personal matter and that women have a fundamental right to control their own bodies and their own lives." The Supreme Court recognized nothing of the sort. The judges made it clear that the state has an interest in the protection of the foetus and they said that the rights of the unborn must be considered along with those of the mother. There is nothing, not one word, in the recent Supreme Court decision that prevents a new federal law, and there is certainly nothing in that ruling which affects Bill 123.

The vote this morning will be a vote on the principle of the bill. Members may have concerns about certain clauses, but these matters can be resolved after second reading. Hopefully, this House will vote to send the bill to a standing committee for detailed study.

One thing that many members of the PC caucus will raise in committee is the scope of this bill. As drafted, Bill 123 applies only to hospitals. Free-standing abortion clinics are not covered. Perhaps this oversight should not surprise us. Since it came to power, this Liberal government has handled abortion clinics, particularly the Morgentaler Clinic, in a somewhat embarrassing manner.

It goes right back to 1985. On June 26, the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) was sworn in as Premier, and on July 7, 11 days later, Dr. Henry Morgentaler was issued an Ontario health insurance plan billing number. Remember that at that time the Morgentaler Clinic on Harbord Street in Toronto was operating in clear defiance of the Criminal Code. It continued to operate illegally until the January court ruling.

The Conservative government refused to give an OHIP billing number to an illegal operation. The Liberals, acting on the advice of the Attorney General, could not wait to do so. It is important to remember that the government did

not give the OHIP number to Dr. Morgentaler for just any use. He got it specifically for use at his abortion clinic.

I quote from proceedings of the standing committee on general government of December 18, 1985, at page G-244. The exchange:

"Mr. Pope: 'He renders medical services, by his own admission, on Harbord Street.'

"Hon. Mr. Elston: 'That is right; billing numbers are issued by location.'

"Mr. Pope: 'And that is the place from which the OHIP billings are coming and to which the money is sent.'

"Hon. Mr. Elston: 'That is right.'"

Liberal support for the Morgentaler Clinic is clear. It is therefore no surprise that clinics are exempt from the provisions of this bill. Perhaps the Liberal member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) can explain why this exemption exists today in the debate in this House, or should the resolution pass before an all-party committee of this Legislature?

I support Bill 123. I do so at peace with my conscience and with the views of my constituents. The bill provides for informed consent. Who can argue with that? Before performing an abortion, each doctor shall tell the mother the state of development of her foetus, the risk presented by the operation and the types of alternatives available. The act then gives each woman at least 24 hours to contemplate this serious decision.

The bill also protects the rights of health care workers to refuse to participate in abortions. This is fair, this is equitable, and as a matter concerning property and civil rights, it is a step only the province can take.

Bill 123 will not put an end to abortion, clearly. But it will make sure that the rights of the unborn, as well as the rights of the mother, are at the fore of the abortion decision. It will ensure that our administrative procedures are fair and more balanced and that the unborn may now become well represented.

The member for St. Catharines-Brock should be proud of his bill and I, too, in this House today will be proud to support it.

Ms. Poole: The bill that is before us today claims to establish administrative proceedings to ensure that a woman's decision to have an abortion is based on informed choice. This is a laudable objective, and indeed, informed choice is already part of our government's current policy on abortion.

However, the bill's true results would be to interfere with and influence a woman's decision

to have an abortion. I believe there are a number of legal and constitutional problems with this bill. These problems are so serious that I feel this bill should not be supported.

The Supreme Court of Canada recently addressed the constitutionality of the Criminal Code provisions on abortion in the *Morgentaler* case. In that case, the Supreme Court found that the Criminal Code violated a woman's right to "life, liberty and security of the person," as guaranteed by section 7 of the Charter of Rights. The court further found that this violation was not in accordance with "the principles of fundamental justice" as required by section 7, and accordingly struck down those provisions.

The court found that the abortion provisions in the Criminal Code caused unwarranted delays, psychological trauma and a greater likelihood of complications and physical risk. It found that the law itself prevented access to abortion facilities, thus violating a woman's rights.

I believe these same problems also exist with respect to the bill before us today. It flies in the face of the decision of the court, the highest court in the land. This is not to say that the government cannot legislate on abortion, but if it is to do so it must comply with the principles set out in the charter.

1040

The bill presently before the House would be subject to charter challenges on a number of grounds. First, the bill is designed to influence a woman's decision by presenting a partial view of her choices. Indeed, it erects barriers to those choices. Have members considered the situation where a woman would decide to have an abortion but, under section 4 of this bill, her doctor would be obliged to act against her instructions? This is not informed choice, this is no choice. The material required in the doctor's information statement, without which the woman's consent to the abortion is invalid, is clearly slanted towards persuading the woman not to have the abortion. It does not refer to many other issues which might be relevant.

Second, the bill has a great potential for interfering with a woman's right to security of the person. The bill would cause delay and thereby substantially increase the potential for psychological and physical harm to the woman. The bill requires medical procedures to be undertaken which may cause harm to the woman's health. Psychological trauma may well result from the nature of the assessment report, the delays and the involvement of the second physician.

As well, the bill has the potential to severely reduce access to abortions. The requirement that the foetus be sustained on life support systems would mean that smaller hospitals and clinics would likely not be able to meet the duty in this bill, thus limiting abortions to facilities with the technical capacity to sustain a number of foetuses on life support systems.

This bill would do all this on the basis of a standard which is vague and impossible to implement in any way. The basic concept which lies behind the consent provisions and which triggers the delivery of the foetus in the presence of the second physician is the potential for life of the foetus. This is a vague and imprecise concept. There is no accepted medical definition of this term. Any foetus at any stage of development may be said to have a potential for life. The meaning of this term is made even more imprecise by the fact that the potential for life must be assessed with regard to the use of artificial life support systems.

Have members truly considered the ramifications of this bill in the instance of a severely brain-damaged foetus, for example? The physician would be required by law to sustain the foetus on a life support system, regardless of the feelings or the wishes of the mother or of the father.

The violations of a woman's security of the person are thus made dependent on a concept which cannot be defined with any certainty and which is completely unrelated to her needs. This unclear standard would likely result in different interpretations by different hospitals, different doctors and in different areas of the province, thus resulting in unequal access to abortions and medical treatment across this province; the sort of variations, I would point out, that were found to violate the principles of fundamental justice in the *Morgentaler* case.

I believe that there are a number of additional points in regard to this bill that should be made. First, our Minister of Health has already asked the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario to establish standards of practice for physicians performing abortions in the province. These standards will address some of the concerns raised in this bill.

Second, doctors must already obtain informed consent as part of common law. The new Ontario standards of practice will also include provision for support counselling by all doctors performing abortions, not just those performing them in hospitals.

Third, as a result of the recent Supreme Court decision, abortion is considered to be a medical decision between a woman and her doctor. As I said earlier, the counselling provision of this bill may, in fact, be seen as a barrier to access. Counselling should be sensitive to the needs of the patient, and women should not be overly pressured in one way or the other. The bill interferes in a fundamental way with the integrity of a doctor-patient relationship.

Fourth, I would make reference to the provisions of this bill concerning the right of a physician or nurse to refuse to perform or participate in an abortion. None of the major nursing organizations—the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, the Ontario Nurses' Association or the College of Nurses of Ontario—support a right-to-refuse clause. Hospitals currently make every effort to accommodate such strong feelings on the part of nurses; however, to enact legislation would present a dangerous precedent in giving health care workers a legislated right to refuse care for patients. For example, nurses could refuse to handle blood products or provide care to acquired immune deficiency syndrome patients because of moral or religious beliefs.

We recognize that abortion is one of the most difficult and sensitive issues that we must deal with in our society today. The role of government is to ensure that abortions are provided in a compassionate environment with the highest possible medical standards and standards of care. Our current policy is based on these principles and is consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on *Morgentaler* and with the principles developed by the Ontario Medical Association and the College of Nurses of Ontario.

The proposed bill violates the rights articulated by the Supreme Court of Canada and violates the principles of compassion and sensitivity that characterize our present approach to this issue. It is flawed both legally and constitutionally. It interferes with the jurisdiction of the college of physicians and surgeons, which sets medical standards and medical procedures in this province; and it interferes with the jurisdiction of the federal government, which has the right to legislate provisions concerning abortion under the Criminal Code as long as those provisions are constitutional.

I have outlined today some of the reasons for which I cannot support this bill. I realize this is a very sensitive issue on which members have very strong feelings. I respect the integrity and the

sensitivity of the members who have brought forward and supported this bill, but I would like to say that I cannot support it and I would urge all members of the House to follow this example. In my opinion, the women of this province deserve far better.

Mr. Farnan: I rise to speak in support of this very important bill, An Act for Informed Choice by Patients. Indeed, I believe this bill is the most significant bill that this House has had to deal with in the life of this Parliament.

As I do so, I have mixed emotions: sadness, because by virtue of necessity, this bill has to accept abortion as a reality in our society; sadness that so many, including political representatives at both the federal and provincial levels, appear to accept abortion as a woman's right; sadness that the bill before us presumes abortion will remain with us when the new federal legislation is enacted.

I hope and pray that this is not so; that the federal members of Parliament will have the wisdom and courage to draft legislation that will uphold the sacredness of the precious gift of life; that they will recognize that human life begins in the mother's womb from the moment of conception; that they will bring forward laws that respect and protect human life at all stages of development; and that the new law avoids any compromise based on the length or stage of pregnancy. For the human foetus in the womb one week or three weeks is as much a human being, has as much potential to grow and contribute to society and is as valuable in the eyes of God and ours as a child of 24 weeks.

I would further point out that there is nothing in the recent Supreme Court decision that establishes abortion as a right, and our object and that of any caring society must be to find ways to give both mother and child the right to life.

At the provincial level, we will be obliged to work within whatever federal abortion law is enacted, and within that framework I believe it is our moral obligation to prevent abortion in as many cases as possible. This is a responsibility we have to both the mother and the child. While we may understand that a situation may in many instances look hopeless, killing an unborn child is never the answer.

The right to know all the facts and all the consequences of a decision to abort is a very important aspect of this bill. Every patient is entitled to receive maximum information prior to any surgical procedure. Regrettably, in the case of abortion, in far too many instances little or no information is given, while quite often the

potential for complications is ignored or minimized.

Furthermore, while the depression of early pregnancy due to hormonal imbalance will often contribute to a decision in favour of abortion, calm advice, true compassion and proper information can often steer a married woman or an unwed teenager past abortion. It is especially important that the alternatives to abortion, including adoption, be explored. In addition, social agencies as well as community groups, and especially parents, can provide viable alternatives to abortion.

1050

I would remind members and this government that we have a responsibility to foster and fund programs and community services frequently needed by pregnant women and single mothers. Information through literature and counselling is not enough. We must work to provide government help and support in health care, housing and other areas of social assistance in order to alleviate the pressures on pregnant women who seek abortions.

Had the information provisions of this bill been in place in years past, I believe that many abortions would have been avoided, many babies would have lived and many women would not themselves have been abortion victims.

I welcome the conscience clause provisions of this bill, which stipulate that no physician or nurse shall be dismissed or disciplined for a refusal to participate in an abortion due to objections based on moral or ethical grounds. In 1969, pro-life advocates sought such a conscience clause. I believe this to be absolutely necessary for medical personnel and for other conscientious objectors as well. For example, a case could be made for the hospital custodial staff, who are required to handle aborted fetuses as merely additional garbage.

Now I come to that section of the bill that addresses itself to the protection of the live foetus outside the womb. The bill provides that where a physician determines that an unborn child has the potential to remain alive outside the womb of the mother, then the physician shall use medical procedures designed to maintain the life of the child.

Let me remind the members that most fetuses die by dismemberment through suction and curettage or by suction and extraction. However, in two methods which are employed in late pregnancies, the baby may be actually aborted alive. These two methods are salting out and Caesarean section abortions. Babies surviving

these methods have been recorded to have lived for several hours without care. Usually, they are discarded in a kidney dish and left in a utility room, where they cry until they die. Some are taken to the incinerator alive, and some are used for organ harvesting and experimentation.

If I might be so bold, I would ask the Premier: is this the grand design of the world-class society that we have in mind? Surely he will not permit his world-class society to be passive and uninvolved as tiny, helpless humans are left to die in such a manner, with no effort to welcome these children into the human race. It is a sad reality of the present situation that a woman who has consented to an abortion is deemed to have the right to a dead baby, and the baby that survives is considered to be a complication. Fortunately for these mothers, they are spared the horrors of witnessing their baby's fate.

There is a nobler vision of our society that is worth striving to achieve. It is a vision in which we, as a society, treasure life as the greatest of our gifts.

I believe that this bill goes some way to reaffirming life. It seeks to ensure that individuals will be thoroughly informed about the developmental stages of life and the consequences of abortion, and it allows individuals, on moral and ethical grounds, to refuse to participate in abortions. Most important, should this bill ever be enacted into legislation, many mothers will decide to keep their babies and have their babies adopted, perhaps; for sure more babies will live.

I commend the member for St. Catharines-Brock for bringing forward this bill, and I indeed feel honoured and pleased to support it. I encourage the members of this House to choose life and, likewise, to support this bill.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Harris: How much time?

The Acting Speaker: Very little time.

Mr. Harris: Is there a fast calculation?

Mr. Jackson: One minute.

Mr. Harris: One minute? Do I not have until 11 o'clock on this?

The Acting Speaker: No, there is time reserved.

Mr. Harris: In the one minute available to me, then, I want to indicate that this bill may not be perfect, but I will be supporting the bill. It is not a bill that attempts to circumvent the Supreme Court decision. It is not a bill that attempts to

intervene on a woman's rights. I think it is a bill that attempts to present a little more balance in the informed choice that a woman has to make at a very difficult time. It is a very difficult choice she has to make at a very difficult time in her life.

I too find it ironic that when the Attorney General, the Premier and the Minister of Health are all going in a direction of no balance, no attempt to look at the other side of this issue or the rights of the unborn, we are dealing with this bill in this way.

I do commend the member for bringing it forward, for allowing the debate, and I intend to support the bill.

Mr. Dietsch: First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) for taking the time out of his schedule to come down and join in the debate. I appreciate hearing his views, and I feel honoured that he has taken the time to come down and put forward in his terms what he considers to be the position of his party.

I must point out, however, that inasmuch as we talk about choice of women, we are leaving out a very important ingredient. There are three people involved in this bill: there is the woman, there is the man and there is the baby. For one of those three components to have an opportunity to overrule any of the other two areas of concern, in my opinion, is somewhat misleading; and in my opinion once again I feel it is wrong.

What I best tried to do in my own way was to put forward a principle. That principle is incorporated within this bill. It is not a bill that is put forward in terms of something from a lawyer who looks at the constitutionality. By the way, I question whether it is in fact against the constitution. I choose to think that it is not.

Also, in terms of the medical approach, I am not a professional physician, nor am I any kind of physician, and I feel that my endeavour, what I tried to bring together through this bill, was wording to provide a base, a starting area from which we can all expand and go forward. The member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) put in very articulate, concise terms the feeling of what we are trying to bring together. The member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) addressed the constitutionality from his understanding.

1100

In as much as I appreciate the support, I want it to be clearly understood my perception of what private members' hour was in terms that it gave me an opportunity to put forward to this Legislature a view that I know is sensitive but yet that I hold as a deep conviction, just as I know the

member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole) holds a varying view. I do respect her for that. I do respect any of the members who have an opposing view to my own. I do however, disagree and I am sure they respect me for that opinion.

I appreciate the members who have taken the time to speak on this very important issue. The sensitivity that we are trying to deal with here is a step that I feel that can be best taken by the provincial government. A step that can be used to enhance if you will our position, to show some leadership on our part.

I think that there are members in this House who have spoken previously to this bill and I respect them for what they tried to do at that time. I checked the Hansards. In them, there were none of the areas that came into play this morning. I guess it shows our sophistication as we grow.

I request all the members of this House to support the principle. Let us work with the issue and develop it from there.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Mr. R. F. Johnston moved resolution 24:

That, in the opinion of this House, the time has come for a major overhaul of provincial policies and practices concerning the education of deaf people in the province of Ontario. The House, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

1. That a thorough evaluation of deaf students throughout Ontario begin immediately, such an evaluation to include, but not be limited to the following:

(a) an assessment of the reasons for the current quality of education provided to deaf students, which research shows provides few graduates of Ontario schools for the deaf and secondary schools with a greater than grade 4 reading ability;

(b) the effectiveness of current teaching methods for deaf students, which do not require the involvement of experts in deaf education when individual assessment of the capabilities of deaf children is made;

(c) the effectiveness of present classroom integration policies and support services as a result of Bill 82 (special education), which do not provide for paying the costs of interpreters;

(d) the practices of hiring deaf and hearing-impaired teachers both in schools for the deaf and in the public school systems, as there are now just eight hearing-impaired teachers among the 170 teachers in our provincial schools for the deaf, and only a handful of hearing-impaired teachers

among the more than 500 teachers of the deaf in the public school system;

(e) an assessment of the provincial schools for the deaf, including their administration, public accountability and organization, since provincial schools for the deaf lack a system of public accountability, and since only one of the three schools possesses an advisory committee (that is itself appointed totally at the discretion of the superintendent of the school), and since the three schools among themselves do not use a common sign-language system;

(f) an examination of the use of American Sign Language as a language of instruction in the schools, which is now not recognized as either a heritage language or a language of instruction, and

(g) an assessment of the Ministry of Education's role as it pertains to deaf education, an investigation into the fact that no Ontario faculty of education currently provides teacher training for the teaching of deaf students, and an assessment of the ministry's mandate to collect province-wide data generally on issues regarding the quality, assessment, effectiveness and success of the teaching of deaf students in Ontario.

2. That the Ministry of Education take immediate steps to involve representatives of the deaf community, advocates for the hearing-impaired and parents of deaf children in all levels of the decision-making process around education for deaf people in Ontario.

3. That the Ministry of Education immediately establish targets and timetables for the hiring of deaf teachers and administrators in schools for the deaf.

4. That the Ministry of Education report to the Legislature by November 1, 1988, on these initiatives.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Madam Speaker, this is a long resolution and, because reading it in its entirety would basically deprive some other members of their time to speak, I would like to read a curtailed version of it with the agreement of the House.

Agreed to.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The House, therefore, makes the following recommendations:

1. That a thorough evaluation of deaf students throughout Ontario begin immediately, such an evaluation to include, but not be limited to the following:

(a) an assessment of the reasons for the current quality of education provided to deaf students;

(b) the effectiveness of current teaching methods for deaf students;

(c) the effectiveness of present classroom integration policies and support services as a result of Bill 82;

(d) the practices of hiring deaf and hearing-impaired teachers both in schools for the deaf and in public school systems;

(e) an assessment of the provincial schools for the deaf, including their administration, public accountability and organization;

(f) an examination of the use of American Sign Language as a language of instruction in the schools;

(g) an assessment of the Ministry of Education's role as it pertains to deaf education, an investigation into the fact that no Ontario faculty of education currently provides teacher training for the teaching of deaf students.

2. That the Ministry of Education take immediate steps to involve representatives of the deaf community, advocates for the hearing-impaired and parents of deaf children in all levels of the decision-making process around education for deaf people in Ontario.

3. That the Ministry of Education immediately establish targets and timetables for the hiring of deaf teachers and administrators in schools for the deaf.

4. That the Ministry of Education report to the Legislature by November 1, 1988, on these initiatives.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): The honourable member has up to 20 minutes for his presentation and may reserve any portion of that time.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I would like to take 18 minutes and reserve two.

[Remarks in American Sign Language]

What I just said is, "Good morning, I am going to talk about the deaf." Problems of the deaf have existed for a long time without any government action. I wish that today in this House a deaf person could be standing here and speaking to members in their sign language. That unfortunately is not possible because of the total disempowerment, disfranchisement of those people over the generations, especially through the poor education that we have given them in Ontario and other jurisdictions across Canada.

There are today in the Legislature a number of people who are deaf. They are coming, as people have come recently from Gallaudet College in Washington, to say that the silence has gone on long enough, that deaf people must be heard as they choose to be heard. Their rights to determine their education and the way they should be followed in the province of Ontario are para-

mount. There is no longer time for us to get in their way.

I have only recently come to this issue, but I am totally consumed by it now. I have been reading the history of the systematic and systemic discrimination against the deaf that has gone on for over 100 years and the role of even great men like Alexander Graham Bell in suppressing the rights of the deaf. Members may not know that he was in fact a major spokesman at the turn of the century against the rights of deaf people to intermarry, because he wanted to stop the supposed genetic carrying on of deafness. He worked very hard against the rights of the deaf.

After the 1940s, a royal commission in this province took away the right of deaf people to be taught in sign language and insisted that they be taught orally in the province of Ontario.

I would like to quote a couple of things from that period in the 1940s. Here is an article from a paper in 1942: "In the case of our deaf children, they are left unprotected against the whims and caprices of theorists." It says: "There is a role for sign language at the Belleville school. Pupils are given five hours of tuition a day by oral method, but are free at other times to use the sign language, but not at meals. It might not be well for them to be waving a potato at the end of a fork."

The kinds of comments that are there and the paternalistic attitudes around people's rights of expression that are inherent in that should be offensive to all of us. I do not think many of us realize today that the same kinds of processes are continuing in this province and across most of Canada. It is time we stood up and did something about it.

These are just some of the basic facts for members who I know will not be aware of this, because I was not:

There are 80,000 profoundly deaf people in the province of Ontario. There are 5,000 profoundly deaf children. For those who think it is in decline, they should know that from the statistics that were done in the late 1970s, in this report, the Canadian Survey of Hearing-Impaired Children and Youth in 1979, that is up from just under 4,000. It is not a declining group, as some people might indicate. There are over 500 children in our three provincial schools for the deaf and many thousands more in the public school system of the province of Ontario.

About 95 per cent are deaf from birth or are deaf before the age of two years. This has very profound implications for how their education should be considered. Ninety per cent of

them—God forgive Alexander Graham Bell—have two hearing parents. In 50 per cent, the cause of their deafness is unknown according to the statistics from 1979. We have a continuing and ongoing problem.

I want to talk about the three schools for the deaf, where people are doing their best. They are in London, the Robarts school in Milton and in Belleville. People are working hard there to give a good education. But if we look at the figures that come in from the Canadian Hearing Society's units around the province of Ontario and the scattered testing they have done of grade 13 graduates from those schools, we find they have a reading capacity that usually does not exceed grade 4 level. We can imagine how that is going to affect somebody going into the work community today.

In the 1920s, there were 17 deaf teachers who taught in those provincial schools. Today, out of 170 teachers, eight are hearing-impaired. None of the senior administration, including the superintendents, is deaf. I want members to think about that in terms of what that says about the hearing world inflicting its concepts of education on the deaf.

Only one of these schools has an advisory council, which may or may not include deaf people. It is totally at the whim and decision of the superintendent of that specific school. Two of the schools do not even have those advisory councils, let alone having deaf people in control of those institutions.

1110

As I have said, there is not one deaf administrator. Yesterday in the House, I raised the case of a gentleman who applied for that position, an Ontarian who now lives in British Columbia who is well recognized as one of the great Canadian educators of the deaf, who was not even called to interview. He was not called to interview because he did not have a certain piece of paper which we require, which it is impossible for a deaf person to acquire in Ontario. I will come back to that later.

I do not know if members can believe this. I found it incredible when I discovered it. We have allowed sign language back into the school system, signed English. But strangely, in our three schools for the deaf there are two sign languages instructed. One is signing exact English and the other is signed English. We do not even have the same language of instruction in sign language being used in our three schools for the deaf.

If we then look at what happens around the province in terms of our public schools, we have teachers with a bit of understanding of signing trying to teach one variation or the other of signed English or signing exact English in the various schools, and dialects of sign language are developing all over Ontario. At the same time as the rest of us in the hearing world are getting sort of North Americanized in our way of speaking and the dialects are disappearing, there is a proliferation of these dialects among the deaf themselves.

American Sign Language, conceptual language, which is recognized in some jurisdictions as a language on its own merit, is not allowed to be taught in the schools of Ontario. It is not permitted because our Education Act says the language of instruction must be English or French and therefore signed English or the *langue des sourds du Québec*, if that were available in Ontario, which it is not. I am sure my colleague the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) will be talking about that when she gets her chance to speak. The language that is in use in the deaf community, which is their language, American Sign Language, is not allowed to be used in the classrooms of Ontario. I can take members back to parallels in the 1940s when they did the same thing with sign language in general. It is an imposition and an affliction on our part which should be totally unacceptable.

Members may also be surprised that there are no courses in signing. It is presumed that as the deaf learn English with signed English, that will show how well they can sign, but there are no actual courses in those schools to teach them how to sign, let alone how to use the American Sign Language which everybody else uses together around the province.

If we look at Bill 82 and the public school system, according to Mr. Wollaston, the senior person in the ministry on these issues, Bill 82 has not gotten many more deaf kids into the school system—a lot of hearing-impaired children, yes, but not the profoundly deaf. Bill 82 has enormous holes in it in terms of actually providing the required kind of education to those children. There is no money available for interpreters under Bill 82, if members can believe that.

If members think of what impediment that is then to a proper education for kids with this kind of a problem, I think they would understand how ludicrous that is. There is no guarantee that when a child goes to an individual program review committee for assessment for the kind of special

education he requires in the public system, any specialized deaf educator is going to be participating there. When IQ assessments are done of these kids, they are not done with sign language, they are done in written English, which is not an indication of the person's true intelligence quotient, no matter what one may think of any of the tests involved.

There are very few deaf teachers, and the standards which we have for the instruction and the capacity of signing of the teachers in our school system vary depending on the region. There are parts of the province, like Thunder Bay, where there are people, I suggest, who do not even meet the minimal ministry standards who are involved in teaching signing in the public school system.

The other thing I have to say is that at this stage nobody on that side of the House is going to be able to tell me how those kids are doing. Nobody is going to be able to inform me just what standards of education they are receiving in Ontario.

They come to post-secondary education. If you graduate from the schools for the deaf in this province, you basically have to go to America to get a university education. We should think about that, as legislators, in terms of our responsibilities to our citizens to provide education for them. Why would our students not have a choice between something in Ontario and the Gallaudet College?

I would admit that it is unlikely that we could afford a university for the deaf in this province and that many students will choose anyway to go to a place like Gallaudet, with the wonderful services that it provides, but Alberta, as a province, is doing more in terms of the supporting of post-secondary education for its students and allowing them the choice to stay in Alberta, if they wish, than Ontario. Over half the students who go to Gallaudet from Canada come from Ontario. There are about 70 from Ontario.

It is time we established at our universities some kind of a centre which provides specialized help, provides interpreters and provides note-takers, which will allow people who are deaf to go through the university system in Ontario as the blind are able to now.

I ask you to think of any deaf PhD you know in Ontario today. Just try to name one for me. I do not think you will find them. I have heard that there is now one who is involved in a PhD course in Ontario at this stage.

In my view, it is unthinkable that in 1988 we would not be providing those kinds of resources.

So somebody goes to Gallaudet. He takes all these fantastic courses—I have the catalogues here for you if you would like to see them—about education of the deaf. He comes back and he has to go to Belleville to take teacher training courses there for the deaf.

I just remind you again, in terms of this discrimination against the deaf, this is the only teacher's training institute in Ontario that is not run by a university. I ask you, why is that? We can have it for the blind, as we do at the University of Western Ontario. Why can we not have it for the deaf, say at York or Western or wherever? It is incredible to me that is the case.

If I were to go and take the courses there and pass, as a hearing person I would get a diploma and then, after two years of teaching in the school for the deaf, I would be accredited to teach in any school in Ontario. If I am deaf and I take that course and pass, I get a letter of permission to teach in the schools for the deaf, but I never get a certification to be able to teach in the hearing schools of Ontario. If that is not an affront to the charter, I do not know what is.

The case I raised the other day of the man who I thought should have at least been called to interview—an incredibly articulate individual with several well-written books, Clifton Francis Carbin—points up the problem. He was not brought to interview, I am informed this morning, because he did not have a diploma in being a superintendent of education. If you cannot become a teacher in our public education system if you are deaf, how in hell's name are you going to become a superintendent?

To have that kind of a structural roadblock in his way—and I can give you five other names of deaf Ontarians who are in leading institutes in the United States of America or in other parts of Canada who would love to return to Ontario, to whom this government and past governments are basically saying, "There's no role for you here under our rules"—you surely have to see that as an incredible injustice and a loss of a wonderful resource to this province. It is time that we addressed these problems directly.

I wanted to talk a bit about preschool intervention. In this province there is virtually nothing available. There is a program down here at Sick Children's Hospital, oral instruction again, but if you live away from one of the schools for the deaf and you have a child who is under two and you have discovered he is deaf, it is very hard to get hold of any kind of a program that is going to help that child meet his language development requirements to be able to operate

in the school system. They are going to go into the school system with a major deficiency.

The term I should have used for the piece of paper Mr. Carbin has, according to a note I have been helpfully passed, is the supervisory officer's certification paper. That is the technical term which is basically keeping people, again, out of leaving our schools.

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This issue is being addressed in many other jurisdictions. There is a report I would commend to all of you to read: *Toward Equality: Education of the Deaf*. It is a report in the United States to the President and to the Congress just as of February. It says a number of things that I think are dramatically true and necessary, including a recognition of American Sign Language as a language of instruction or at least as a heritage language, so that kids can get the idea that the language they use is respected by our educators.

In this book it says—and is this not a dangerous notion?—that universities like Gallaudet, and I therefore suggest all our schools for the deaf, should have boards that are controlled by deaf people. What a dangerous notion that would be to the kind of systematic discrimination we have had against deaf people in the past.

People are not going to be quiet about this issue any longer. The deaf are not going to sit idly by and allow the kind of discrimination that has occurred to continue or the lack of opportunities opening up to them to continue.

It is not just happening here. In Manitoba during this last election, the deaf community came out with a whole range of suggestions that government should take up. Formally recognizing American Sign Language as the language of the deaf in the province of Manitoba was one suggestion. Others were that American Sign Language be used as the primary language of instruction in the Manitoba School for the Deaf; that there be a major push for bicultural education instead of the single view that we have at this stage; and again, in terms of the governance of all the schools in that province, that they should be under the control of deaf people and the parents of deaf children who are going to those schools.

My resolution does not attack this particular government. It is attacking a mindset that we have all had because this is a very silent disability, an easily forgotten disability in our presence. What I suggested is that there be an evaluation of all those aspects that are wrong in the provincial schools and in the public system, such as the lack of programs available at the university level and the real dearth of programs

available at the preschool level; and that this government report back to this Legislature, to all of us, in a certain period of time—I say November of this year—with what progress it is making in turning this around, what affirmative action programs it is bringing in and what kinds of changes are being made to the way the deaf community is involved in decision-making in this province that will change this very tragic history of neglect, which is a very direct and not an indirect neglect of the deaf community of Ontario.

I implore all members of the House to support this resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable member has reserved 15 seconds. The member for Burlington South.

Mr. Jackson: It is indeed a great honour and privilege for me to rise on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party and to speak in support of the resolution from the member for Scarborough West. I wish to state on a very personal basis how and why I will be supporting this bill. In fact, the matters raised by the member for Scarborough West have had some personal effect on my life.

I consider three events to be of significance to me as a legislator and as an individual in this province.

First, I had the experience of growing up as a child knowing my uncle who, in the midst of poverty in the city of Winnipeg, had to overcome his deafness which he carried throughout his entire life. I recall myself as a schoolboy in the 1950s, defending my uncle, out of love and respect for him, against the prejudices of that now ugly phrase “deaf and dumb.”

Second, I recall later in life the sensitive portrayal by Alan Arkin in *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, a film which had a profound effect on my life.

Third, today I wish to include the statements made by the member for Scarborough West as having a significance in my life as a legislator. For that reason I am very pleased and proud to stand with him in what I think is one of the finest speeches I have heard in this House in my three-year tenure.

As we debate this resolution, I think back to the events of the last two months when the students and hearing-impaired faculty members at Gallaudet in Washington, DC, rose to assert their moral authority, to ensure that one of their own, a deaf person, be installed as president of their institution. Their efforts and ultimate success in this endeavour moved us all.

These students and professors accomplished something more important, however. They demonstrated that the deaf and hearing-impaired suffer from a disability which is not of the mind or the soul. We were allowed very briefly into the life of one of the world's most extraordinary learning institutions. What we saw was a university and a student body that was like no other.

The member for Scarborough West has presented a resolution which is as significant as it is lengthy. In the resolution he asked that the system for the education of the deaf be studied and examined. I support this notion. Throughout my research on this issue, I have discovered that there exists within the hearing-impaired community and the educational community a debate about the most appropriate methods of educating deaf and hearing-impaired students.

I would like, therefore, to examine three areas of concern as they relate to my honourable colleague's resolution. First, I would like to examine the debate surrounding the notion of integration. Second, I will examine the current state of teacher training for the hearing-impaired students in our province. Finally, I will comment on the need to examine the state of Ontario's university and college system with respect to its ability to accommodate and education Ontario's deaf students.

The debate concerning integration rages on among parents of all learning-disabled students. Educators and parents of hearing-impaired students are caught in this quandary as well. Some parents groups, such as the Voice For Children, argue that deaf and hearing-impaired children should be integrated into a normal learning environment. They believe that these children will be given the same choices as their peers and will be well equipped to pursue a post-secondary education.

These students will also be very well prepared for the real world. Parents and educators associated with one of Ontario's special schools for the learning-impaired believe that their approach provides the most appropriate form of education. Their schools are staffed with resident tutors who are conversant in American Sign Language and can communicate in signing. In addition, these schools offer smaller classes that provide individual instruction.

We are confronted here with two competing systems of education and many questions that need to be answered. My colleague's request for an extensive study of the relative merits of each system should provide a forum in which many of

these questions could be answered. The state of teacher training of and for the hearing-impaired requires examination. The figures quoted by my colleague in his resolution are worrisome and frightful indeed. As the member for Scarborough West notes, there are just eight hearing-impaired teachers among the 170 teachers in our provincial schools for the deaf and only a handful of hearing-impaired teachers among the more than 500 teachers of the deaf in the public school system.

Regular classroom teachers must receive further instruction in dealing with hearing-impaired students in their classes. Perhaps this could be an effective utilization of professional development and a commitment by this government. More important, however, our faculties of education must modify their curricula in an appropriate fashion. Students at our province's educational facilities should receive instruction in the education of the hearing-impaired prior to their teaching.

Second, our schools of education should modify their programs to meet the needs of hearing-impaired teaching candidates. Perhaps the most important change that could be made to our faculties of education, and possibly attitudes in general, is to encourage the hearing-impaired to enter the educational profession themselves.

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A study of the problems, as suggested by the member for Scarborough West, would provide a forum for this debate and seek immediate solutions. The state of Ontario's colleges and universities for the education and physical accommodation of the hearing-impaired requires immediate and serious examination.

At the University of Toronto, for example, a deaf student may take advantage of a service whereby he is paired with another student who will take notes for him in a particular lecture. The notetaker is paid for his or her services. While the intention of this system is laudable, it is, unfortunately, flawed by human nature. What if the notetaker is unable to attend classes on a regular basis? What if the notetaker's handwriting is illegible? There are many practical problems with this meagre approach.

Proponents of an integrated form of education would argue that universities should be physically modified to meet the needs of the hearing-impaired. This could be accomplished by improving the acoustics and providing interpreters in lectures in which deaf or hearing-impaired students are enrolled. There are many things that can be done that are not being done now.

Another proposed solution is the establishment of a university which is devoted exclusively to the education of the deaf. I talked earlier about Gallaudet College in Washington, DC. This proud institution has a tradition dating back to the 1800s, and it has produced graduates who can compete with anyone, anytime and anywhere. Unfortunately, many deaf Canadian students who aspire to an education at the university level leave Ontario for Gallaudet. It is a shame that Ontario should be deprived of their talents.

An inquiry into the nature of post-secondary education for the deaf and hearing-impaired is vital. Thus, my colleague's suggestion for the establishment of a committee or a call for the government to the Ministry of Education to make it an early priority to examine the state of deaf education is essential, and it is long overdue.

Passage of this resolution would heighten the public's awareness of the problems that confront deaf students in our educational system. Unfortunately, those members of society who are deaf or hearing-impaired still battle a perception that they are unable to compete and achieve in our society.

I have been, frankly, quite disappointed with the replies of the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) to the incisive and important questions asked of him by the member for Scarborough West regarding this very important issue. The minister's replies have been no longer than one or two sentences. I certainly hope that this type of short and terse response does not reflect the attitude of this government with respect to the long-overdue and proper education of deaf students in Ontario.

In closing, I would like to quote from Harlan Lane's work, *When the Mind Hears*. He states, "What matters deafness of the ear, when the mind hears? The one true deafness, the incurable deafness, is that of the mind."

On behalf of my caucus, I wish to indicate my total and absolute support for the resolution as presented by the member for Scarborough West and I beg that all members of this House give this resolution and the member their full support.

Mrs. O'Neill: May I first congratulate my colleague the member for Scarborough West on the deep commitment that he has shown to this issue of education of the hearing-impaired. As all members are aware, the education of all exceptional individuals is an important matter that deserves the full attention of this Legislature.

Although I understand the concerns expressed in this resolution, I suggest that it represents a rather narrow view of the provisions of the

education of the hearing-impaired, representative only of the profoundly deaf.

The hearing-impaired are not a homogeneous, distinct population for whom social, educational or other measures can be universally prescribed. Hearing-impaired persons are children who are unique, individuals with widely varying needs and abilities, for whom a wide continuum of services and educational opportunities are necessary. Differential hearing loss demands different school placements, communication methods and support programs. The hearing-impaired child in Ontario may be placed in a variety of school settings: the regular class, the regular class with withdrawal or itinerant support, the special class in a school board program or, indeed, a provincial school.

The decision of where a hearing-impaired student should be placed is not made in a vacuum, as the motion suggests, without the support of deaf educators or experts on deafness. In determining the placement of an exceptional student, it is through the mandated identification and placement review committee that the particular expertise necessary to conduct the deliberations is sought. In fact, staff from provincial schools for the deaf are often involved in local-board IRPC decisions. In addition, parents are always encouraged to participate in these committee hearings and can themselves supply resource people with expertise in their child's exceptionality. Indeed, advocates for the hearing-impaired are on many special-education advisories in school boards across this province.

The resolution makes reference in section 1(g) to an apparent lack of teacher training for teachers of the deaf. Many members may be aware of the excellent training facilities, which have already been mentioned, in Belleville, Ontario, where qualified teachers take part in a one-year program to enable them to teach hearing-impaired students. Within the university system, members may remember that in the past York University offered teacher education for teachers of the deaf. This program is presently suspended due to the small number of applicants, though I wish to point out that York continues to offer courses at the master's level for further professional development of teachers with basic qualifications in deaf education. In addition, discussions are currently under way with an Ontario faculty of education regarding a preservice training program being offered for teachers of the deaf.

The resolution also seems to suggest that schools and programs for the deaf are not

sufficiently monitored by this province. This is simply not the case. Provincial schools for the blind and deaf were recently audited by the Provincial Auditor and they are subject to ongoing scrutiny and governance by the Ministry of Education. As an aside, members may be interested to know that the auditor reported that there was in fact a decline in enrolment in these schools, partly because local school boards have been able and anxious to develop programs for the hearing-impaired, these programs formerly offered only in provincial schools for the deaf.

It should further be pointed out that programs developed for the hearing-impaired by the school boards are governed by ministry guidelines and, once established, are monitored by the ministry's regional offices. The implicit assumption of the resolution seems to be that a solution to the challenges of hearing impairment lies solely in the introduction and promotion of sign language and deaf persons teaching in our schools and classes for the hearing-impaired. The number of teachers of the deaf who are themselves deaf in Ontario and elsewhere has been closely related to the communication philosophy and methodologies employed in programs for hearing-impaired children.

Historically, philosophical positions have been very polarized: oral, stressing speech-reading and auditory-training methods; or manual, stressing sign-language communication systems. In oral systems, deaf teachers were and are at a very serious disadvantage. The teaching of speech and the enhancement of auditory functioning demand functional hearing. Ontario's schools and programs for the deaf were exclusively oral from the late 1920s until the late 1970s. As a result, very few opportunities did exist for deaf teachers.

Today, however, a comprehensive range of services and programs for hearing-impaired children exists throughout this province, at provincial schools and in many boards. It is recognized that deaf education is not a simple either/or choice—oral or signing—but rather that differential hearing loss demands differential school placements, communication methods and support programs. Deaf persons and their abilities, unique understandings and experiences have a valued importance within this system. Deaf teachers, counsellors and other professionals are playing an important role in those areas and programs where their particular skills and insights in communication and deaf culture can be appropriately employed.

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Deaf teachers are employed mainly in total communication programs in the provincial schools and a few in the local school boards. There are certainly no impediments to a qualified deaf person becoming a teacher of the deaf in this province. Indeed, there is a special consideration given to hearing-impaired persons in the regulations of the ministry, which allow them to circumvent some of the requirements demanded of regular teachers, which would be very difficult for them to fulfil.

I am happy to report that the number of hearing-impaired teachers and counsellors in our education system is growing. I do not see that the Ontario education system has somehow neglected the needs of hearing-impaired students. I am enthusiastic about the strides we are taking in this province in this area of education, and I can state with confidence that our record compares favourably with that of other systems in North America.

In fact, I found it very interesting to learn that provincial schools for the deaf have a dropout rate two thirds lower than the rest of the province, and one third of the graduates with hearing impairment go on to post-secondary education. This is not to minimize the educational difficulties inherent in hearing impairment. I believe that our approach to the teaching of the hearing-impaired should be constantly reviewed. In fact, as many members know, boards of education must undertake and submit an annual review of their special education programs.

I would agree, however, that a broader review may be appropriate. Unfortunately, the one proposed by the resolution is inadequate. I believe it is inadequate because, as I have said, it focuses too narrowly on the concerns of only one segment of the hearing-impaired advocacy community. Rather, we should be placing those concerns within a broader spectrum of all needs, services and programs for the hearing-impaired children of this province. I believe that a wider and longer review may be appropriate. I therefore will be voting against this motion while at the same time advocating a more comprehensive provincial role in the hearing-impaired programs of Ontario.

Miss Martel: I want to say in beginning my remarks that I am very pleased to support the resolution put forward by my colleague the member for Scarborough West. I want to thank him in particular for asking me to participate and for giving me that opportunity.

It should not be a surprise to any members in this House that he has taken up this cause and that he is showing a tremendous interest in the deaf and hearing-impaired students in this province, because for as long as I have known him—and I knew him before I came to this Legislature as a member—he has been a dedicated fighter on behalf of people who are least able to speak for themselves. Whether he has been speaking for the poorest of the poor, as he did with all his work on poverty, or whether, as in this case, he is speaking for people who literally in many instances cannot speak for themselves, I have always known him as a dedicated fighter on behalf of those kinds of people and on behalf of their causes. I want to say that I am very pleased to be associated, even in some small measure, with this issue in particular.

I want to respond very briefly to the last speaker from the Liberal Party and make several comments. There is no doubt that the resolution is geared in many ways to people who are profoundly deaf in this province, and there is no doubt we agree that, for many of the hearing-impaired, we are looking at special means and ways in which they can be treated in the regular school system. But I have to say, on the basis of the resolution put forward by my colleague, where he points out that graduates of Ontario schools for the deaf and hearing-impaired students who are graduating from normal schools have a grade 4 reading ability in this province, that if that is the best we can do in this province, there is something seriously wrong in the way we are responding to deaf children and to children who are hearing-impaired.

The second thing I want to point out is that she made note of the fact that the provincial schools are audited by the Provincial Auditor. I want to point out to her that while we agree with that, we are also extremely concerned that, of the three, only one in fact has an advisory committee. People who are put on that advisory committee are selected by the superintendent of the school. We have no guarantee that hearing-impaired students, their parents or any groups who are advocating for the deaf or hearing-impaired in this province are going to be represented on advisory committees of those three provincial schools. So we have some difficulty with the fact that the government is not going to support this, because we think this would go a long way in addressing some of those concerns.

I want to go back to some of the points my colleague made, to reinforce them and to make two points in particular about special problems

we have in the north concerning this situation. First, my colleague pointed out, and I want to reiterate the problem, the concern we have about the quality of education for deaf students and for hearing-impaired in this province. If they are coming out as graduates with reading ability at grade 4, then there is something seriously wrong and we are not serving them properly. There has to be a complete overhaul if we are going to give them the same opportunities as hearing children in this province have.

Let me say that the lack of access for hearing-impaired teachers to the regular school system or to provincial schools is unbelievable to me. The people who are best qualified and best able to teach children who are deaf or hearing-impaired are not well represented and are barely represented in either the regular schools or the three provincial schools. It seems to me that we would be much better off, as a Legislature, to look at the example of Gallaudet College, where, in fact, an administrator who is hearing-impaired has now been assigned to administer that university. There was a major upheaval, and I could almost say a rebellion, on the part of the students in order to get that person in that place, because it was their feeling that they would best be served by a person who was one of their own in that sense.

I would say that in Ontario we are far from achieving that, and this government certainly has to make some major advances and a major push in that regard to ensure that the people who are deaf and who are hearing-impaired are being served by people who understand their concerns and their situation much more clearly than the rest of us in the hearing world can.

Third, we have not taken any look in the education system in this province at the use of American Sign Language as a language that the deaf or the hearing-impaired can use. While there is a great deal of controversy around the language itself and there is a great deal of controversy among parents as to whether that sign language might impair speech development itself, the fact of the matter is that American Sign Language is being used in the community and it is being used extensively outside of the education system. If it is being used that extensively, then it must be responding to the needs of the hearing-impaired and the deaf in our society.

There is no reason this Legislature should not look at the possibility of implementing, in some way, American Sign Language in our school system to provide for services which I am sure the deaf and the hearing-impaired would like to

have. There is no reason that ASL cannot be used as a heritage language in the first case and exact English or exact French can be implemented from that point on. It could be used as the forerunner to the other languages in the school system, and I certainly think we have to be looking at that possibility.

Finally, in terms of general concerns, I go back to the point my colleague raised: that there is very little in the way of early intervention for deaf or hearing-impaired students in this province. He pointed out that over 90 per cent of the deaf are born deaf or become deaf before the age of two, and our system is not responding to the needs of those preschool kids who really, in their formative years, need that type of training if they are going to be on the same footing and have the same advantages that the rest of us who hear in this world enjoy.

In particular, the problems, the regional disparities, make the point even more obvious that there has to be some greater commitment on the part of this government to provide those services. If you are fortunate enough to live near the provincial schools, then you can have your child in those types of programs, their needs can be met and they can be given a better chance as they start to move through the elementary and secondary school system. But I must say that if you do not live near those schools or you do not live near the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, then you have some real problems, and immediately your child is disadvantaged when he begins to go through the elementary and the secondary school system.

I will take just a moment to look at the problem in northern Ontario, which is specifically distressing to me, and I hope members of this Legislature can become aware of it. The first thing is that there is no provincial school for the deaf anywhere in northern Ontario, so if your child is profoundly deaf and requires the services of the provincial schools, then you have to uproot that child and move him south. It is a tremendous trauma to the family and to the children involved that they cannot stay in the north.

Those of us who live in the north experience this in the health care system all the time, but in terms of this type of education they are forced to leave the north and get their training and spend their educational years somewhere in southern Ontario. I think that is a tragic situation and it is a tragedy that this government and the school system have to force families to send their children south if they cannot receive that type of education in the north.

1150

En ce qui concerne les étudiants de langue française, il existe un problème majeur. C'est qu'il n'y a pas de communication pour les sourds dans le Nord de l'Ontario. C'est-à-dire que la seule forme de communication qu'ils puissent comprendre, c'est la communication orale. Il n'existe pas de langage des sourds, comme au Québec, où les personnes peuvent parler par signes. Les francophones qui habitent dans le Nord et qui ont besoin de communiquer en français, doivent absolument aller au Québec pour recevoir de l'instruction dans leur propre langage.

I must say, for those French families who are forced then to send their children, not to the south, because they cannot receive education in sign language in the south, but to Quebec, the situation for them is even more traumatic and, in my mind, it is even more unjust.

What can this government do? This government, in the first place, could vote for the resolution, which would go a long way in at least starting to look at some of the problems that my colleague and myself and the member from the Conservative Party have raised. I must say that I am extremely distressed to learn that the government will not do that and that the government in fact believes this is too restrictive or that we are meeting the needs of only one particular group.

I say to the members opposite that we are concerned about needs for deaf students and for the hearing-impaired. We are not trying to locate it specifically in one group and to respond only to their needs. We feel there has to be a complete assessment done of the quality of education that is being provided to deaf students and to the hearing-impaired. If they only have a grade 4 level of reading when they graduate, there is something seriously wrong and it means the system has to be overhauled.

We believe this government has to take the first step and do a complete review of the facilities and the policies related to the deaf and whether the deaf are involved in any way, shape or form in their own education, how that is being implemented and how that is being performed throughout Ontario. I say that this government has to look seriously at providing facilities and training for French students in this province and for students in northern Ontario so that they do not have to leave.

I encourage all members of this House to take this question seriously, to look at the broader goal we are trying to obtain and to vote with the

member for Scarborough West for this resolution.

The Deputy Speaker: I would remind the members to keep the private conversations to a minimum, please, so we can hear the members talking.

Mr. Cureatz: I appreciate the opportunity of participating in this debate. I can only surmise that we do have some guests in our public gallery who also have some interest with regard to the resolution that is before us this morning, and I can say to them a couple of things.

The first is that, although when you look about the chamber it may appear that members are doing some other work, and indeed they are, that is not to say they are not interested in this resolution. Indeed, I can assure you a topic of this nature strikes close to the hearts of all of us, because a topic like this is not necessarily partisan, as my honourable friend who has brought forward the resolution mentioned in his opening remarks. It is a resolution that strikes at every member here, notwithstanding his or her political affiliation. I have to say that, because here I am, as a Conservative, supporting a New Democratic Party member with regard to the proposal.

I can assure you that, at times, I have had difficulties in supporting the resolutions from the honourable member. I can think of the nuclear-free debate, in which I had some problems trying to decipher how we were going to control nuclear weapons here in Ontario.

Notwithstanding that—and, of course, I have concerns about nuclear weapons—I can say with regard to this resolution that I have had some personal experience through my constituency work, and I have been trying to explain to all the new Liberal back-benchers that that is what counts in this assembly: looking after your constituents, not being told what to do by the front four over there. I will talk more about that this afternoon in my budget debate.

Interestingly enough, in my own constituency—

Mr. Mahoney: Have you got a new speech? I'm getting tired of this one.

Mr. Ramsay: What about the landfill sites?

Mr. Cureatz: I will be talking about landfill sites too.

In my own constituency, when I was first elected in 1977, a humble few years ago, one of the first problems I encountered was in regard to a family trying to get some funding to place its two daughters at the Washington school for the

deaf. That was a problem I encountered, which I realized then, notwithstanding that we were the government, posed some financial difficulties for my constituent and for the students. I had a learning experience and was a little surprised to find out, I say to my colleague who brought forward the resolution, the lack of instruction and the lack of higher-education facilities available to students—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The many private conversations are impairing the hearing of the Speaker and the members who would like to listen to the member making his presentation.

Mr. Cureatz: The result was that after some hard work and many phone calls and weeks of investigation, we were able to have some success in giving some assistance to my two young students who were impaired in hearing.

I give credit to the member for trying to focus on the difficulties that this area presents, and I can say to her, I guess, that quite often with the larger issues that are before us in this chamber, be it free trade, Sunday shopping, yes, landfill sites, we quite often brush over some of those other concerns which are, in my mind, probably of equal concern. Why? Because they affect our own constituents, and that is why we have been elected, to represent them here in these chambers.

I am surprised at the still archaic method used at the university level, here at the University of Toronto, as indicated by my own colleague, of having a student taking down notes beside an impaired student. You would think with modern-day technology we would have made further advancements in those areas, so that those impaired of hearing who are trying to seek a higher education would have available to them all the technology available to those of us who are not so incapacitated.

What really surprised me, of course, was the speech of one of my Liberal colleagues, the member for Ottawa-Rideau (Mrs. O'Neill), and I can only say to her that after one has had the opportunity of being here for a number of years, one finds out that one is being manipulated by the cabinet and by the front four, because an issue like this comes forward which affects individuals, which is not partisan whatsoever and then we hear—

Hon. Mrs. Smith: Oh, no. Surely not manipulated.

Mr. Cureatz: Listen. I know. I have given speeches like hers before, when I was in government, and you wind up defending the system, I say to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon)

and I say to the House leader, and you defend the ministry and you defend the minister, and there is a mad rush in caucus about how a resolution like this cannot be passed.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cureatz: And she said she is not supporting it, so I can only presume the rest of the Liberals are not supporting it. I can only say to the Liberal caucus—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: I have just heard from my Liberal seatmate that he is supporting it, and that gives me great encouragement that the Liberal caucus has not been whipped into a vote against the resolution.

With the short time I have left, I want to bring to members' attention comments by Rev. Bob Rumball. I do not know if members have had the opportunity of hearing him speak. I have, many times, through various brotherhood nights in Oshawa, Bowmanville, in my own Rotary Club in Bowmanville, and I can say that a more sincere, dedicated person I have never met.

His comments about his disgruntlement with the present Liberal administration were noted in a headline in the Toronto Sun, "Grit Plans for Deaf Slammed." I can only say to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), for whom I have a great deal of respect, because I know he has great sincerity for his position in carrying out his job in that ministry:

"The reverend indicated that the minister told him that the proposed complex would include a nursing home for the deaf, a shelter for battered and abused deaf people, and a permanent residence for multihandicapped deaf adults.

Apparently the minister flatly turned him down. I can only say to the minister that I trust he and his staff will have the opportunity of reviewing the plans. Possibly we could incorporate some of the aspects my colleague has brought forward in the resolution about some of the difficulties the impaired have in terms of education, seeking higher education at colleges and universities, being trained by some of their own, and encouraging those students who are not incapacitated who are seeking higher degrees in education to have some fundamental basis in terms of training the deaf, so that we can open up this whole aspect of the impaired and the deaf and what the resolution is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member's time is up. The member for Scarborough West will wind up.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: In the 15 seconds I have, I would like to thank three people: Gary Malkowski and Patti Shores-Herman, who are upstairs, for their education of me in the last few weeks, and Kirk Ferguson, who is presently interpreting for them. I would like to invite members to meet some of these people, who will be talking about their experiences in a press conference following this.

12:05

INFORMED CHOICE BY PATIENTS ACT

The House divided on Mr. Dietsch's motion for second reading of Bill 123, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Callahan, Daigeler, Dietsch, Farnan, Ferraro, Furlong, Haggerty, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kozyra, Lipsett, Lupusella, Marland, Martel, McCague, McGuinty, McLean, Owen, Pelissero, Pollock, Pouliot, Ray, M. C., Runciman, Sola, Sweeney, Tatham, Villeneuve.

Nays

Ballinger, Beer, Black, Brown, Bryden, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Charlton, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. S., Curling, Elliot, Elston, Fawcett, Fulton, Grandmaitre, Grier, Hart, Hošek, Johnston, R. F., Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, Laughren, LeBourdais, MacDonald, Mackenzie, Mahoney, Mancini, Maturdola, McGuigan, Morin-Strom;

Neumann, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Oddie, Munro, Offer, O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Patten, Philip, E., Phillips, G., Poole, Rae, B., Ramsay, Reycraft, Roberts, Smith, E. J., Sorbara, South, Sullivan, Swart, Velshi, Ward, Wildman, Wilson, Wong.

Ayes 28; nays 60.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. R. F. Johnston has moved resolution 24.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:11 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

"A WORLD-CLASS EMPIRE"

Mr. Farnan: A World-Class Empire:

The emperor was proud of his empire and he wanted all his subjects to share this pride, so he urged his three advisers to help his subjects to better appreciate the wonderful empire in which they resided.

"Perhaps," suggested the emperor, "you can uplift their spirits without necessarily addressing their needs."

The emperor's advisers did not fail him. "Let us proclaim a message of excellence throughout the land," they said. "Remind the villagers that their problems will be studied by an emperor's council, that there are centres of excellence somewhere in the kingdom, that it is a great privilege to live in a world-class empire. Let us encourage the serfs to forget their toil and their heavy tax burden by rejoicing in the glory of our globally competitive empire."

"Splendid," said the emperor. "Order huge quantities of ink, quills and parchment, bells and horses, whatever it takes. Hire more scribes and messengers and town criers. I want no expense spared. Spend, spend, spend. Remember, this is a world-class empire."

The emperor's subjects were puzzled. They would have preferred more homes, hospitals and schools, but the emperor had made up his mind. His subjects must learn that every world-class empire comes at a price.

ONTARIO FAMILY FARM INTEREST RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Villeneuve: Yesterday, I commented about the neglect of Ontario's rural poor in the recent budget. Today, I want to point out that many farmers who are in some degree of financial difficulty will face unexpected increases in their interest payments due to a 60 per cent reduction in the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program.

In the 1987 budget, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) decided to provide 100 per cent coverage instead of the expected 70, bless his soul. I asked whether that had anything to do with an event that was to occur on September 10, 1987. Not one word was said during the 1987 election campaign about coverage dropping by 60 per cent in 1988.

Again, during the election, not one word was said of a reduction in the OFFIRR program.

Many farmers have already borrowed operating funds from their bank for spring seeding, never expecting a 60 per cent cut in their OFFIRR benefits.

We have had the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) holding shrimp-and-booze receptions. We have had beer flowing and flying at the Liberal staff parties in this building. We have had the Treasurer telling taxpayers not let them drink milk, but let them drink beer.

Now, as reported in the *Toronto Star*, we have the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) telling farmers if they do not like the OFFIRR cut, let them go bankrupt.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. D. R. Cooke: As Mental Health Week in Canada draws to a close, it seems appropriate to mention the progress achieved by this government in the area of community mental health and also to note that there is still a great deal to do to ensure that community support is available for the greater number of mentally ill who, with the encouragement of succeeding governments, wish to live their lives in the community.

Research has shown that prolonged hospitalization aggravates the behaviour and symptoms of the mentally ill. It is for this reason that governments have acted in placing the psychiatrically disadvantaged into their home communities. Funding for community-based mental health programs has increased markedly since 1985. It is anticipated that by 1991 the number of those served in the community will double to over 200,000. That being said, there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done in this area. It is not enough to say that numbers will double when there are now people waiting.

Since 1979, general spending on health care has increased at almost three times the rate of increased spending for those who are psychiatrically disabled. While we have started to provide real community support for these people, the number of after-care workers is still inadequate. With the number of patients in psychiatric institutions declining, it is important to consider transferring funding to an area where the need now exists. Let us proceed with as much haste as possible to relieve the current waiting list for services.

CITY OF WELLAND

Mr. Swart: As many people will know, with the lower demand for basic metals and with the demise of the textile industry, the city of Welland has gone through some pretty rough times in the last few years, but the people and leadership there have a resilience and an initiative that are unique. Starting this summer, Welland will be known as the city of murals.

Already, there is a mural measuring 6-by-23 metres on the front of the Seaway Mall depicting the canal and other early history of the city. At least 13 more of these eye-catching, local-theme, permanent, exciting murals will be unveiled. Another 35 of these or other major art objects will follow in the next year or two. One will be the full height of the 10-storey building on which it will be located. All will be the work of world-renowned artists. Thanks to good leadership, the idea has caught on, and the people of Welland are enthusiastic about it. The budget of \$300,000 is several times the original one set about a year ago, and already five sixths of the amount has been donated.

There is every reason to believe that this will transform the image of Welland from that of a heavy industrial city to that of an extremely attractive tourist centre. Industry is still important, but soon Welland will be known as the greatest outdoor art gallery in Canada. Only one other community in this nation has accomplished what Welland is doing—Chemainus, British Columbia, and it has been a huge success. Welland will even surpass that effort.

EASTERN ONTARIO

Mr. Runciman: In his budget, also known as the great tax ripoff, the the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) chose to treat eastern Ontario with utter disdain. His two-paragraph reference to that important region was innocuous, at best. In essence, the budget says that all is well in the east. Well, horsefeathers.

When reaching such an outrageously inaccurate conclusion, the Treasurer obviously does not choose to make a distinction between Ottawa-Carleton and the rest of eastern Ontario. For example, does he know that in eastern Ontario, excluding Ottawa-Carleton, the percentage of families earning under \$10,000 per year and under \$5,000 per year is well above the provincial average? Does he know that the average family income in eastern Ontario is almost \$5,000 below the provincial average? Obviously, the Treasurer is unaware of these

facts and many others, yet he has the unmitigated gall to say all is well.

This government seemingly cares not a whit for eastern Ontario. The Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay), who has no idea where eastern Ontario begins or ends, cancels a much-needed young offenders facility in the east for crass political reasons, and even the insultingly meagre eastern Ontario development fund, announced almost two years ago, remains on the drawing board.

Eastern Ontario merits attention, but all that this government and its Treasurer have given it is the back of their hand. That callous treatment will come back to haunt them.

ONTARIO FAMILY FARM INTEREST RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Wildman: I rise to raise my voice in objection to the comment of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) that it is all right for farmers to go out of business, to go bankrupt if they cannot make their interest payments, and that it is acceptable for this government, after providing 100 per cent coverage to bring down interest rates to about eight per cent last year for the family farm, to cut that by 60 per cent for this year.

It is obvious that this government, for all its rhetoric and for all the nice comments made by the Minister of Agriculture and Food about commitment to agriculture in Ontario, does not give a whit for the family farm. The comment made by the minister the other day that he is somehow going to come up with a program for long-term debt does not give any assistance right now to anybody who is facing a serious increase in immediate interest payments because of the cuts in the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program.

1340

It is time we dealt with long-term debt issues for the family farm but, in the interim, the government should be maintaining the OFFIRR program at 100 per cent. It is one of the few successful programs for farming in Ontario, and I guess that is the reason this government decided to cut it. Whatever is working for family farming and agriculture in Ontario obviously must be cut by the Liberal government.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Simcoe East, for up to 42 seconds.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. McLean: I want to draw the attention of members of this Legislature to the very shoddy

work that is being done by this government with regard to questions in Orders and Notices. There have been many questions placed on the order paper by me and other people in response to which we have had interim answers saying: "We are looking into it. We are going to do what we can to get you the answer." They have been on for over six or nine months.

I say to the government House leader, why does he not whip his ministers into shape and get some answers for the members and the public? We need answers. These are very important questions and the public has a right to know what the answers are.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am rising to inform the House that I have received a report from my ministry officials on the internal investigation carried out recently by the St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital. That report concerns the circumstances surrounding the recent events in London involving two patients from the St. Thomas institution.

As members will know, there are charges before the courts relating to that incident. However, my ministry officials assure me that comprehensive procedures regarding implementing the conditions of loosened warrants are in place and were followed by the hospital.

In light of this, I have asked the mental health operations branch of my ministry to have an independent assessment done as soon as possible of the risk management systems at our psychiatric hospitals. This will ensure that the best possible monitoring systems are in place.

As members will know, the Lieutenant Governor's Board of Review is responsible for reviewing the cases of patients on Lieutenant Governor's warrants. The board is established under the federal Criminal Code and is therefore within federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Justice Thomas Callon, chairman of the Lieutenant Governor's Board of Review, has recently visited a number of psychiatric institutions in the province, meeting with experts in forensic psychiatry to discuss some of the difficulties surrounding patients being held on Lieutenant Governor's warrants.

A tiny fraction of patients on such warrants in our psychiatric hospitals suffer from the kinds of psychopathic disorders that do not respond to existing treatments and may present a danger to others. Mr. Justice Callon is moving to ensure that, as far as possible, clinical assessments of

patients identify those presenting the greatest risk to others.

With this information in hand, the board can recommend to the Lieutenant Governor that these few individuals should be in secure settings such as the Oak Ridge division of Penetanguishene or the regional treatment centre at Kingston Penitentiary, which is a psychiatric facility under the Mental Health Act.

The system under which individuals are held under Lieutenant Governor's warrants has been in place for some time within the jurisdiction of the federal Criminal Code. In fact, my ministry is on record as generally supporting amendments to federal legislation which was tabled in the House of Commons in 1986 but has yet to be introduced there. I will be urging the federal government to proceed with legislation as soon as possible, as it may allow a more appropriate placement of persons with serious mental illnesses.

I want to re-emphasize that this government is committed to ensuring the best quality of care for the mentally ill within the psychiatric units of our general hospitals, the province's psychiatric hospitals and throughout our expanded community mental health programs.

In closing, let me emphasize that my primary goal is, as always, to ensure public safety.

SALE AND LEASEBACK OF PUBLIC ASSETS

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It has been widely reported in the past few days that a number of provincially funded organizations and institutions have entered into transactions for the sale and leaseback of public assets, including equipment and library books. Other institutions may be planning similar transactions.

I have serious reservations about this practice. These transactions result in the creation of a tax write-off through the transfer of assets from a nontaxable entity to a taxable one.

The sale and leaseback of capital assets is an accepted financing vehicle in the private sector. However, I am concerned about the appropriateness of this type of activity where it involves assets of public institutions the province supports. This practice also has implications for the normal process of determining provincial funding support for these institutions.

Although this financing vehicle supplements the budget of the institutions, it does so at a very high cost to the taxpayers and with relatively little benefit to the institutions. Out of every dollar in reduced government revenue, institu-

tions receive as little as 10 cents while intermediaries pocket as much as 90 cents.

While the sale and leaseback arrangements are permissible under existing tax legislation, they represent an inappropriate use of the tax system at great expense to the taxpayers. I have directed ministry staff to undertake a full review of the implications of sale and leaseback and similar tax-driven leasing arrangements undertaken by publicly funded organizations. The purpose of the review is to develop an appropriate policy to prohibit these transactions which in essence distort the intent of existing tax legislation. It is not the purpose of this review to interfere with normal leasing of equipment and other assets.

We will also be discussing with other governments the possibility of a co-ordinated approach to this issue.

In the interim, I am announcing today a moratorium on all sale and leaseback arrangements by organizations and institutions funded by Ontario.

RESPONSES

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Reville: I want to compliment the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) on a balanced response to a difficult situation which involves the juxtaposition of the criminal justice system and our mental health system. I do wish that when her officials continue the review, they will also review what the treatment possibilities are at the Oak Ridge centre. It is my view that the treatments offered there are inadequate to the purpose and that more thought and more money must be invested in those treatments.

I worry a little bit about the possibility that Mr. Justice Callon will have constitutional problems if his board commits people who have not been convicted of a crime to a federal penitentiary.

I also think it is disappointing that the only statement the Minister of Health has made during Mental Health Week concerns about one per cent of the people in the mental health system.

SALE AND LEASEBACK OF PUBLIC ASSETS

Mr. B. Rae: In responding to the statement by the Treasurer, I was not surprised but, I think it is fair to say, disappointed that, in making his statement, he could have said nothing of why it is that our public institutions have felt it necessary to use a sale and leaseback arrangement which may well be inappropriate. I happen to believe it is inappropriate, in the sense that it ends up

costing taxpayers a lot of money and the money does not go directly to those institutions.

But I am really quite amazed that the Treasurer could have made his statement saying that institutions will not be allowed to use this particular financial vehicle without at least recognizing that the reason the University of Western Ontario had decided to sell and then lease back its own library was because it was not getting the money from the provincial government that would allow it to maintain that library.

That is the problem, and not once in his statement does the Treasurer say a word about sitting down with the institutions to discuss the reasons that moved publicly supported institutions to do what they felt was necessary. The reason they did it was because they went to the government and did not get the kinds of answers they were expecting and hoping for.

The fact of the matter is that the only reason our public institutions have gone to this is as a desperate last resort. If the Treasurer does not understand that, he does not understand precisely what is going on in every public institution, with respect to the funding of libraries, to the funding of university equipment and to the funding of the basic infrastructure that has been let slide for too long in the province.

1350

I think it is irresponsible for the Treasurer to get up in this House and say he is going to be discussing with other governments the possibility of a co-ordinated approach, that he is going to prohibit the transactions because they distort the intent of existing tax legislation, and at the same time does not stand in his place and say: "I am chastened. I now recognize that these institutions have been forced to go to some lender in order to find ways of getting a few extra bucks for the library or for the equipment or whatever it may be, and the government of Ontario recognizes that."

I think it is fair to say that things have reached such a desperate state in many of our public institutions that they felt forced to do it. It is a profound sadness to me that the Treasurer, in his statement, made no recognition—not a glimpse, not a glimmer, not a hint—that he understood what it is that has moved these institutions to take advantage of the tax system in this way, to take advantage of the federal tax act in this way and to use a vehicle that may be inappropriate, but frankly, the government of Ontario and the Liberal Party has not left them with very much choice.

Mr. Harris: I too am shocked by the statement of the Treasurer today. Typically, this government is always attacking the symptoms without recognizing that these symptoms are an example of an underlying, fundamental problem that is there. We have seen it time and time and again. They cannot continue to just throw money out there without looking at how the money is being spent. There is example after example.

Here we have institutions that have gone—albeit a measure none of us, I think, would support—to extraordinary means because they do not have the funding in the right areas they need to run their institutions, whether they are hospitals, schools, universities or community colleges.

We see this with the lack of affordable housing. This government has done the same thing. We have a problem with conversion of apartment buildings to condominiums. So what do we do? We attack the symptom and we ban the conversion. Then we cannot understand why nobody will build apartment buildings.

Every time the government brings in a measure like this, every time it attacks a symptom, it is making the problem worse. They have thrown dollars into the health care system, for example. Where do they go? Last year, Ontario health insurance plan billings by doctors were up over 17 per cent. This year, OHIP billings by doctors: over 17 per cent. That is where the money goes. Over \$2 billion has gone into that since they have taken office. I know they saved \$50 million, but when you look at what is happening where the money is going, every time they attack a symptom, they do not get at the problem and they make it worse. The nurses' association is paying the price and the hospitals are paying the price.

We have example after example where they will throw money willy-nilly into various ministries and say, "What good boys are we." Do they not understand? They are saying, "Oh, it's because you squeezed them for so many years." During the depression they were squeezed, but tell me why hospital after hospital, school board after school board, university after university, community college after community college says the problem is worse today under a prosperous, booming Ontario than it was during the recession.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Mr. Runciman: I want to comment briefly on the statement by the Minister of Health today. I think most of us on this side of the House will

find it extremely disappointing, to say the least. This statement will provide absolutely no solace to the parents of the victim in London, or to the residents of the area or to Ontarians generally who have forensic facilities in their communities.

It says absolutely nothing about the St. Thomas-London incident—a complete white-wash—and says that comprehensive procedures are in place. Obviously they did not work, and the minister is not addressing that at all. She professes to be concerned about public safety, yet her friends on the standing committee on public accounts killed an attempt for an independent assessment.

Today, she continues to toss up the jurisdictional red herring. The Provincial Auditor said it was not a jurisdictional problem. She knows full well her government changed the act in 1986 so that cabinet no longer approved the loosening of warrants. All the appointees to the review board are provincial appointees, and she continues to suggest that she does not have jurisdiction.

This is apparently a very irresponsible effort to cover up a process that almost cost a young girl her life.

Mrs. Cunningham: I want to speak to that statement as well. I am very concerned that this internal review has been carried out and it has not been made public. I will be speaking to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) at the end of this day and asking for that report so that I can go back to London, where there is a meeting taking place with the parents. I will need that for Saturday's meeting.

I am also concerned about some of the statements that have been made. Obviously, it is my understanding that there have been new facilities planned around Oak Ridge in Penetanguishene and the regional treatment centre in Kingston, and nothing has happened on those promises. In my readings, I certainly saw some plans.

I would also like to state that it is common knowledge that there is a shortage of psychiatrists to work in these kinds of institutions. We do have problems and I hope that the next review, which seems to be a monitoring review, will be carried much farther than I understand it would be carried today. What we really need very much is an external review of this process and of the problems that are taking place.

ORAL QUESTIONS

INCOME TAX

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Treasurer, known affectionately as Spud Nixon, Party Animal.

An hon. member: I thought I recognized him.

An hon. member: Old Spud.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Here's looking at you.
Interjections.

Mr. B. Rae: They may have seen him before.

I wonder if the minister can explain why it is that a family that lives at the poverty line pays income tax, but Brascan, which is, I am sure the minister will know, the company that owns the company that makes beer many people in this province drink, does not pay any income tax at all to the government of Ontario.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the honourable member is aware that the base of the corporation income tax has a number of tax preferences that are designed to encourage corporations that make a profit to plough that profit back into an expansion of their operations and are designed to give employment to our people and prosperity to the country and the province.

Mr. B. Rae: The Minister of Finance made it very clear that he did not share that logic when it comes to our richest citizens. We used to give out annually a Golden Loophole Award in Ottawa, which would be given to those hundreds of individuals making more than \$50,000 who did not pay any income tax. The government of Canada said it is going to be closing that loophole.

I wonder why, if it is good enough to close that loophole for our richest citizens, as individuals, it is not good enough for the government of Ontario to do exactly the same thing for those 25,000 profitable companies that are making money each and every year in Ontario, why it is not good enough for them to pay income tax when it is good enough for the family that is making \$23,000 a year in Ontario to pay the government of Ontario plenty of money.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not think we are arguing about whether Ontario should parallel the tax base of the federal government on corporation income tax, which we do in almost every particular. Beyond that, we have a capital tax whereby all these corporations pay to the Treasury of the province, as corporations, an amount based on their capital commitment. So all these companies do pay tax at the provincial level.

Mr. B. Rae: We are talking here about income tax that is not being levied on 25,000 companies doing business in Ontario that make money, and we are talking about an income tax that is levied on a family that makes somewhere around \$20,000 and does pay income tax. The Treasurer

would raise somewhere between \$300 million and \$400 million if he had a minimum corporate tax in Ontario. It would cost him just one third or one quarter of that to cut off the income tax rolls all those families that are either at or below the poverty line. Why does he not do it?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We are talking about tax on corporations, which led me to tell the honourable member and the members of the House about the capital tax, which I am sure they are all aware of.

The second part of the question has to do with the tax payable by low-income families and citizens. I am glad to be able to report to the House that the figures given to the House yesterday by the honourable member in this connection were inaccurate. As honourable members know, and I am sure everybody is aware, they come from the budget of Saskatchewan about a year ago, which put that province in a very proper order of being generous to low-income citizens, something we all applaud.

1400

But as they apply to Ontario, they did not take into account the private and public payment of the Ontario health insurance plan premiums and a number of other areas which, when properly added up, put Ontario at the level of fourth from the bottom, exceeded in tax effort and tax improvement, you might say, by Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Quebec. The rest of the provinces tax higher than we do. Three provinces tax lower and we are, as I say, fourth from the bottom, a position I would like to improve but which is a reasonably good one.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. B. Rae: The Treasurer has said they are inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. B. Rae: This is a new question, Mr. Speaker. The Treasurer said they are inaccurate. He does not think OHIP premiums are a tax. On this side, we do. That is the difference between us.

Mr. Breaugh: He used to when he was over here.

Mr. B. Rae: When he was over on this side, he used to say it was.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: My question is to the Minister of Health, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Does that misrepresentation stand alone or can I respond?

Mr. B. Rae: He can make his statement. I am just responding to what he said. I think it is only fair.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I have no objection.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: How come he makes a little speech after my answer and then I am not permitted to respond to him. After all, he is going to the Minister of Health on another matter.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question to which minister?

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health. I am sure she receives, as we all do, letters from people around the province about our health care system. Events of the last few weeks have caused us to receive many more. I would like to share with the minister a letter that my colleague, the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) received just last week, from a patient who was writing to him from the hallway of the emergency department of the Welland County General Hospital.

She was admitted on Monday, April 18, 1988, and she was writing to the member on April 21, 1988. I would simply like to say to the minister that the letter describes, in the most telling and eloquent ways, the conditions in the hospital, the lack of privacy and the fact that it is impossible for patients to get a bed for many days.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister if she is aware that as a result of the announcements coming forth from her ministry, the Welland hospital is now planning to close 30 beds for the summer?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The example the Leader of the Opposition uses, I think, is a very good one to point out how expertise from one hospital can assist others and how information systems available in one can facilitate others.

I would give a quote from a hospital, in fact a very good hospital, the Scarborough General Hospital. Its director of emergency services responded, and it had similar overcrowding problems in its emergency, by pointing out, "This major improvement and almost elimination of the overcrowding problem is the result of physicians and administrative staff at Scarborough General working together to institute new systems, and as well, ensuring these new measures continue to work."

The ministry is always willing to help hospitals implement new systems and share advice, and I think this kind of co-operation is an example of how people are coming together to help us resolve some of the problems and issues we face.

Mr. B. Rae: I say with great respect to the minister that condescending attitude to hospitals that have a 98 or 99 per cent rate in terms of occupancy, that have patients lined up in the corridors and that are having to cancel surgery because they do not have enough nurses—she stands up and says, "It's time to share the expertise"—that kind of condescending attitude not only offends hospitals, but it offends every patient who is being denied care today because her government is not paying attention to the problem.

Mr. Speaker: And your supplementary.

Mr. B. Rae: My supplementary to the minister is this: Is she aware of, and what is she going to do about, the fact that the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa is indicating it may have to close as many as 45 medical and surgical beds, which represents 16 per cent of its hospital beds available right now, and lay off staff?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have been in discussions with the Ontario Hospital Association, hospital boards and administrators, and there is one thing we all agree on: We will work together co-operatively to ensure funding is used appropriately so that hospitals are fairly funded and we can provide essential services to the people of this province in a fiscally responsible manner.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Forget the cue cards and answer the question.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister has more cue cards than Ronald Reagan. I would like to ask her in terms of the last letter we now have, the second letter that has gone out—

An hon. member: What about yours?

Mr. B. Rae: This is not a cue card. This is a letter. I am not going to read it.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Read it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: It is signed by the director of the institutional operations branch, dated April 29, 1988, to all hospital administrators. It says, "In addition to efficiency improvements, this containment plan"—that is the plan which is supposed to contain care given to patients—"will, if necessary, include proposed actions to realign services." We are demonstrating day after day

that the definition of realigning services that the hospitals are having to follow is cutting necessary services—beds, time. It is there.

Can the minister confirm that in fact this is what is going on across the province in response to the announcement the Treasurer made?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to quote Dr. Eugene Vada when he said, "There inevitably are going to be times when the system"—that is, our health care system—"is being underutilized, and there are going to be times when the system is going to be stressed, but a regionalized system where there can be movement of patients from one facility to another is the only way of dealing with that sort of thing.

"I think the concerns have been somewhat exaggerated. There's much more concern, I think, than the system merits, particularly when you compare its behaviour to the behaviour of health care systems in other countries."

Dr. Vada is the dean of community health care at the University of Toronto. For the information of the Leader of the Opposition, in the thesaurus I find no synonym nor antonym for the word "realign" that says "cut."

Mr. Brandt: My question as well is to the Minister of Health and it relates to the question of the length of time it is now taking for hospitals to provide health services in the case of heart surgery in this province. Is the minister aware that in Ottawa the average waiting time for heart surgery is now 16 weeks? In London it is now 17 weeks and in Metropolitan Toronto it is now 18 and a half weeks. I would say, with respect, that the 18 and a half weeks is up from a 10-week average just three short years ago.

When the minister talks about improving health services in this province, and when this waiting list has gone up almost twice over the course of the past three years, how can she justify that?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is important to note when we discuss this very important subject that in 1985, with some of the technological advances, the planners were telling us we could expect a decline in the number of procedures performed. In fact, the opposite has occurred. Advances in cardiac surgery have allowed doctors to treat a wider range of people. It is important to note that life-support funding, which supports additional cardiac care over and above global budgets in this province, was doubled from 1985 to the present.

Mr. Eves: I quote to the minister from the report to the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council on the current status of open-heart surgery in Metropolitan Toronto. It is a

public document. "The waiting list for adult open-heart procedures has increased to 723 adult patients and 139 pediatric patients (actual data February 1988). The mean waiting period for open-heart surgery is in excess of three months and, for some surgeons, in excess of 28 weeks. In comparison, in December 1985 there were 384 patients waiting for open-heart surgery with a waiting period of a maximum of two months"—the average 1.5.

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The minister has an extra \$1.2 billion in her health care budget this year—

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Eves: She has known for three years that the waiting lists were getting longer and longer. She has known for four years that a fourth cardiac unit was needed at Sunnybrook Medical Centre and she has done nothing.

Mr. Speaker: Would you come to your question, please?

Mr. Eves: How does the minister account for the fact that the number of people on the waiting list in 1988 is 250 per cent greater than it was three short years ago and she has done nothing to increase the capacity of the system?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member is wrong. Since 1985, the life support funding for cardiac surgery in this province has doubled. Second, it is important to note that since there is a wider range of people eligible for this type of surgery, we have waiting lists. We recognize that.

The Metro Toronto District Health Council is looking right now at those waiting lists, and as well we are looking at a computerized registry proposal that will make sure patients get to the nearest available bed. Our system is designed to make sure that those in life-threatening situations get priority.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Eves: Maybe the system is designed to see that emergency cases get taken care of, but the system is not taking care of them.

Yesterday, the minister said that a greater number of people are now recommended for surgery and that has increased the waiting list. That is exactly the point we are making. More people need heart surgery since 1985, when this government assumed power, yet there has not been an increase in the capacity to perform heart surgery. The volume of heart surgery steadily increased, in this public report, from 1981 to

1985, from 2,400 operations a year to 3,086 in 1985.

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Eves: Since 1985, the volume has levelled off at 3,000; in fact, it was slightly less in 1987 than it was in 1985.

Mr. Speaker: Come to the question, please.

Mr. Eves: What has the minister been doing? There are no more surgery procedures taking place in 1988 than there were in 1985, and the minister is misrepresenting the facts if she says that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened very carefully to the final words of the member. It seemed to me that you accused the minister of misrepresenting. Would you please withdraw that?

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on the point, what the member said was if the minister answers that way, she is misrepresenting the facts.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate it is very difficult to hear. I believe that is what I heard. Will you withdraw?

Mr. Eves: I will withdraw. What I said, though, and what my House leader said is quite accurate. If—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Order. Would the member take his seat.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The figures that the member opposite is quoting are the figures for Metropolitan Toronto. As part of new and expanded programs across this province, cardiac surgery is now available in Sudbury and we have expanded province-wide our system of cardiac care by some doubling of the resources of life support systems since 1985. Those are the facts. We recognize that there are more people recommended for this surgery. We also recognize that if a patient's doctor determines that his situation is urgent, that doctor can recommend that the surgery be made available, and it is my understanding that treatment is available for those cases.

RIDEAU REGIONAL CENTRE

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. In January, I wrote to the minister about the Rideau Regional Centre in Smiths Falls, which houses 850 developmentally handicapped residents. I received a response from him in February, but was not satisfied with that. So, on February 15, I

wrote to him under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act asking for information with regard to his planned closure or partial closure of that particular institution.

Under the freedom-of-information act, the minister has 30 days to respond to my request. I only heard from his offices some 80 days after I made my original request. Why is he showing total lack of regard for this law? Why is he breaking this law?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: If the information is as the member has just described it, I obviously must apologize. I would point out to him, however, that we do not have a planned closure for Rideau. I have indicated that to the member and to several other people in that region.

I was down to Rideau myself a few weeks ago. I met with the staff, with some parents, with some of the residents and with the administration. We clearly discussed the fact that the various institutions around the province have been asked to submit to the ministry their proposals for a long-term plan for anywhere from seven to 15 years. When we get those and analyse them and go back and discuss them with the institutions, eventually such a plan will develop but does not yet exist.

I can only presume that if we were unable to meet the member's request, it is because what he wants is not there. I do apologize if it took 80 days even to get an answer back to him. That is not acceptable.

Mr. Sterling: Under the act, in spite of whether they can answer, they are required to respond to me within the 30 days. There is a clear breach of this particular act. There does not seem to be any intent of following it.

I will tell the minister why I am so deeply concerned about Rideau Regional Centre and the deinstitutionalization program of his ministry under Challenges and Opportunities. There are three former adolescents who were transferred from Rideau Regional to the R. Tait McKenzie school in Almonte, Ontario. The R. Tait McKenzie high school is a very small institution and desperately needs expansion. The Lanark County Board of Education recently asked the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) for \$94,000 for an expansion but was turned down.

Mr. Speaker: Your question?

Mr. Sterling: As a result, these three individuals are now being taught in the kitchen of this high school.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Sterling: Is this what the minister's Challenges and Opportunities program is all about?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: We have clearly indicated, in that document and in other ways, that individuals will not be moved out of an institution into the community until there is a residential placement for them and a day-program placement for them. That means we have to contract with various agency associations to provide that range of services. Our agreement, obviously, with the school board is that they will provide educational services. We do not, however, have any control over the actual placement in which they will be provided.

I certainly admit that a small kitchen is not as preferable as a classroom, but it does not preclude the fact that educational services could be provided there. I would only share with the member that in the very first school of which I was a principal, we had to use every square inch of the school. In fact, we used the kitchen too.

Mr. Sterling: I am afraid our party views these individuals as needing extra-special help. It seems to be that the minister is willing to shift this problem on to other ministries, other governmental institutions, municipal governments, boards of education, as he seems to be in other areas.

In a brochure, Challenges and Opportunities, the minister says, "It is a myth that there are inadequate community services to support these individuals." I ask the minister: Is it a myth that his ministry has now broken the freedom-of-information law in denying me information about this particular program in this institution? Is it a myth that there is no independent evaluation of this program, according to his senior policy advisers, whom I met with yesterday? Is it a myth that he does not follow these people up during—

Mr. Speaker: That is your third question. Order. Would the member take his seat. Minister.

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Hon. Mr. Sweeney: One of the criteria for moving people into a community is that we do have a community agency with which we contract to be responsible for providing a range of services to that young person, so as a matter of fact, no, it is not a myth that we do not have monitoring and follow-up services in the community when people move into that community. We do that very, very clearly.

I have already indicated to the honourable member that if my staff had not responded to him within the allotted period of time, that is not

appropriate. I apologize for it and I will doublecheck on the circumstances. I am not aware of them.

I have already spoken to the school situation.

CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT SERVICES

Mr. Farnan: My question is to the Minister of Correctional Services and relates to the shocking situation in Ontario correctional institutions. Sick human beings, over 6,000 inmates in need of psychiatric treatment, are languishing in our jails and are not getting treatment. The minister is aware that solitary confinement is not an uncommon practice in the handling of mentally disturbed inmates and under ministry regulations can routinely occur without the knowledge of his ministry.

Will the minister acknowledge that within Ontario prisons the condition of sick men and women is simply deteriorating and that, without proper treatment, these individuals will be released back into society with an even greater potential for antisocial behaviour than when they entered prison?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I feel like giving a Jim Bradley response to this. We could go institution by institution and list all the programs that we have at the Ontario Correctional Institute and the Vanier Centre for Women and the Rideau Correctional and Treatment Centre: anger management programs, substance abuse programs, family violence programs. We have program after program. We are increasing those programs, and I think we are doing a very good job in Ontario in treating our offenders.

Mr. Farnan: If these 6,000 individuals were not in prison, presumably the Ministry of Health would have to assume some responsibility for their treatment and care. While we may applaud psychiatric deinstitutionalization, we have to ask the question: Are many of these former patients simply finding their way into our jails and, beyond the glimpse of public scrutiny, are they simply forgotten souls denied treatment?

Will the minister guarantee proper treatment for all psychiatric inmates requiring it and will the minister accept responsibility for crimes committed by ex-prisoners, if indeed proper and adequate treatment is denied them while under the care of the Ministry of Correctional Services?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: All I can tell the member is that there are many challenges out there. There is a lot that we can do. It is not perfect. We are working very hard towards making treatment available to as many of the people as we can in our system. My goal is to make sure that we do

have treatment for everybody who needs it. That is what I am working towards.

ANNIVERSARY OF THOUSAND ISLANDS BRIDGE

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. I am sure the minister is aware that this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Thousand Islands Bridge. He may also be aware that a re-enactment, hopefully, will occur with respect to the King-Roosevelt opening. The President and the Prime Minister have been invited, as well as the Premier of this province and the Governor of New York state.

I am wondering, based on the minister's comments earlier this week when he was vigorously patting himself on the back about all the things his ministry is doing for eastern Ontario, whether he would advise the House just what his participation, Ontario's participation, will be in this significant event.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I am aware that the member has brought this to the attention of my staff. As the member is also aware, there are certain guidelines that we have concerning the Destinations East program. Of course, the one organization that has applied for funding is the Thousand Island International Council, which is based in New York. That is one of the groups that has asked for funding, although there are Ontario members on it. I can tell the member that I have asked my staff to look into it to see if there is some way we can help in this celebration.

Mr. Runciman: The reality is that three organizations have applied. The Thousand Island International Council is a mixed body of Canadians and Americans. It is not solely an American agency. The fact is that New York state has contributed close to C\$200,000 to this event. This minister and his government have not indicated any support at all, not one red cent, yet he stood up in the House earlier this week and said all the wonderful things he and his ministry are doing for eastern Ontario.

Will the minister make a commitment today to participate, and will his ministry participate in this very significant event?

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Again, I think the member should be one of the first to recognize the great job we are doing for eastern Ontario, not only in tourism but also in other areas. We have made a great improvement from several years back. I cannot give the member a commitment today. As I say, there are certain guidelines. I have asked the staff to have a look at it. Knowing the member's concern and how much he would like

to see it go ahead, we will certainly look for his co-operation and do whatever we can to assist him.

AQUACULTURE

Mr. Tatham: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. We all realize that many farmers, in particular some tobacco farmers, are going through difficult times. One new farm enterprise that is showing promise is aquaculture or fish farming. However, fish farming requires a significant financial commitment. This industry could be greatly enhanced if other species in addition to rainbow trout, brook trout and large- and small-mouthed bass could be cultured commercially in Ontario.

I know the Ministry of Natural Resources has, since 1981, been looking at ways to make fish farming a viable commercial enterprise in Ontario. Can the minister bring the members up to date on MNR's efforts to promote fish farming as a viable opportunity in this province?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The aquaculture industry in Ontario is the same as it is in many parts of the world. It is an excellent method of growing food. We certainly are keeping abreast of the kinds of initiatives taken in other jurisdictions. We are producing some 2.5 million pounds of rainbow trout today and we have other species that are being raised right now in the form of perch and eel, believe it or not. They are gathering them at the Saunders dam through unique eel ladders.

Mr. Reville: An eel and a beer.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I thank the member very much for the interjection.

The aquaculture industry is a fast-growing industry we are very much aware of and very willing to continue to support. As was the case when I was Minister of Energy, we co-operated with an industry at the Pickering plant where we were able to use the water that was warmed from the reactors to produce the kind of environment that would cause those fish to grow very quickly.

I am very pleased to say that aquaculture is a very viable alternative for farmers who are going out of business. I do not suggest we are ready to admit yet that the grape growers are giving up because of the terrible pressure put on them by the federal government through the free trade arrangement, but we are looking at—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

Mr. Tatham: As consumer demand for fish and fish products grows, has the minister considered any co-operative efforts with other agencies to encourage fish farming in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes. I think a very important initiative has been taken with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) who is now the minister of aquaculture and agriculture.

I must say that some \$300,000 has been put into a quarantine centre at the University of Guelph that is going to help us quarantine the kind of stock that is going to be necessary, not only to provide stock for fish farming, but also for fisherman like the leader of the official opposition, in rainbow trout and all those good things. We are involved with much of the industry across the province. As I have said before, it is a growing method of growing food in Ontario. I am very pleased that we are very much involved and will continue to be.

Mr. Jackson: Now there's a fish story if I ever heard one.

Mr. Villeneuve: Sounds fishy to me.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Yes.

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HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Swart: The Minister of Health gave a very evasive answer to the question by my leader about the situation at the Welland County General Hospital, so evasive that she did not even mention the Welland hospital.

By way of a question to the minister, I would like to ask her if she knows that in the month of March, 265 patients waited on emergency stretchers in the emergency department for an average of 20.2 hours; some of them were there for up to four days. In April it was 288 people. Does she know that hospital operated last year at 98.5 per cent of capacity for the whole year? Now they are cutting 30 more beds. Would the minister tell me and tell the people of Welland and the hospital how she is going to solve that problem, or if she is just going to evade it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry is always available to offer advice and assistance to hospitals that are experiencing particular difficulties. I would be pleased, if the member or the hospital board or administration requests, to send in an outside expert to review their operation and determine how we can help them be more efficient and make sure that their patients are receiving the needed services and maintaining essential services in that community.

Mr. Swart: The problem is that ministry has been inviting them for the last three years. Does the minister know also that that Welland hospital has the lowest operating cost per bed of all the 23

hospitals in Ontario, and therefore she provides them with less money? Last year they had a deficit of \$1.3 million. They forecast a deficit this year of \$2 million.

Given the cutback in 30 beds, which is one fifth of the bed capacity, and the need to cut back in more beds, can the minister not tell this House that she is going to take some action to alleviate this serious crisis existing in the hospital situation in the city of Welland?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to assure the member and the residents of Welland that I will do everything necessary to ensure that essential services are maintained in that community. The review we have conducted of those 22 hospitals that have had repeated deficits should give us the information we need to make sure that hospitals are fairly funded, so that they can provide for the services the ministry has approved in their budgeting, and we can have the kind of planning that will lead to the kind of quality health care and budget predictability that will allow us the most rational use of our resources and make sure that we maintain fiscal responsibility as well as good planning and delivery of services.

AQUACULTURE

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I rise to correct the record, if I may. In answering a question from the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham), I may have given a wrong number. I want to make sure the record shows that I meant to say about 2.5 million pounds annually in the production of aquaculture here in the province. A colleague pointed out that I may have given the wrong answer and, as fishermen are wont to do, I may have stretched the truth just a little.

FLOODING

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a question to the same minister, who does stretch the truth from time to time, the Minister of Natural Resources, . The minister knows that a number of eastern Ontario areas are subject to summer flooding. The South Nation River Conservation Authority covers five eastern Ontario ridings and has that problem, and the minister is aware of it. Will the minister give his assurance today that funding will be available to correct the summer flooding problems in the South Nation River in those problem areas of Plantagenet, Augusta township, South Branch and Bear Brook?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I am sure the member is aware of the fact that we handle the funding of those kinds of initiatives through the conserva-

tion authorities and that there is a commitment by the government of Ontario to provide funds, as there are funds provided by the municipalities in the areas that are threatened.

At this point in time, I cannot give that kind of answer to the member, because there is a good process that decides, on the basis of where the threat is most serious, that we would set up a system so we can react to where the need is the greatest; so I cannot give the commitment today. I would be very willing to examine the whole circumstance there and share with the member where that might be.

Mr. Villeneuve: The conservation authority in question met with the minister's parliamentary assistant here recently. This is a photograph that shows, in mid-July, a farmer standing knee-deep in water in a crop of corn that is ready to tassel. That is a major problem. Would the minister not undertake to work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of the Environment to correct this very serious problem?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course we are very much concerned about that circumstance, but as I said before, and I think it is very important, the conservation authorities across the province provide a very meaningful vehicle on how to deliver the situations where we have to respond. Remember, there is something also quite significant, that is, that this government has continued to go into a flood-plain-mapping circumstance which is going to help design the systems where we will not have those people impacted on if the municipalities in the areas which are party to the flood-plain mapping are willing to accept that there are areas we really have to stay away from. If there can be the kind of dredging and channelling to correct that kind of circumstance, it has to be brought into the perspective of where the priorities are.

SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Kanter: I have a question of the Premier. As he is aware, the Metro planning department has prepared a report recommending the extension of the Spadina expressway from Eglinton to Davenport, which would result in the demolition of hundreds of homes and would destroy the quality of life for thousands of residents, not just in my constituency but in many adjacent constituencies in Toronto.

Can the Premier advise us of the position of the provincial government regarding this proposal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I have not seen the detailed aspects of the chairman's plan, but the answer is that it is not the government's intention

to proceed with Spadina. As I said yesterday, the minister will be bringing forward a comprehensive plan for the greater metropolitan area transportation plan in a month or so, and it does not include the extension of Spadina.

Mr. Kanter: I certainly appreciate the Premier's reply. I am just wondering, in terms of additional assurance for residents of the area, as the provincial government owns most of the land that would have to be used for this expressway, could the Premier assure those residents that no provincially owned land south of Eglinton Avenue will be used for highway purposes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I understand the concern of people in that area. It is an issue which has been mooted for a long time and I appreciate the very thoughtful question. It is the first thoughtful question I have had in this House in a very long period of time, and very elegantly worded, as well. I appreciate that.

The answer is that we do not plan to use the provincial lands for those reasons. I respect the leadership of the honourable member in this regard, speaking forcefully for the people of his constituency, and we will not let them down.

CONVERSION OF RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Breaugh: I have a question for the Minister of Housing concerning the Rental Housing Protection Act. With only four staff people to enforce this act, it is not surprising that there have not been any convictions.

Was the minister aware, when she said that those apartments which have been converted into apartment hotels for the purpose of avoiding rent review cannot do that, that the regulations which she published really do reveal that conversions which were done six months prior to the issuance of the regulations cannot be investigated, so that anything which happened in a six-month period can be covered, but anything that happened prior to that is not covered by these new regulations? Was the minister aware of that loophole when she made that statement?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The suite hotel regulations which we proposed make it possible for people who have felt that their building has been converted inappropriately to suite hotels to complain to the ministry and to get support and protection.

Mr. Breaugh: I take it the answer is that she was not. Was the minister aware when she made the announcements of these new regulations that the regulations in effect mean that illegal rents charged for illegal apartment hotel suites will

stay in the landlord's pocket, as long as they were collected prior to April 1987, and that the Premier has voiced his opinion on the matter, that a successful prosecution under the Rental Housing Protection Act for the conversion of rental units to suite hotel units, would not restore the units to their rental status since the act does not give a court such authority? Is the minister aware of that?

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Hon. Ms. Hošek: The way that the amendment was supposed to deal with that second question that the honourable member raised is that because the rents would have to be set under rent review, any inclination or incentive to have and operate a suite hotel would be removed because the rents for that unit would have to be under rent review, therefore controlled and therefore no longer attractive to be rented as a suite hotel.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Health. In the latter part of February, I called the minister and voiced my concerns about a study that committed 11 extended care beds for the North Hastings District Hospital in Bancroft. I also voiced my concerns about whether she would provide funding for an addition to that hospital, with those beds, or whether she would commit funding for a new hospital in Bancroft.

Would the minister inform the House what her decision is?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am not prepared at this time to respond with detail to the honourable member's question. I will be pleased to look into it and discuss it with him.

Mr. Pollock: How soon can I expect an answer from the minister? After all, that hospital is run by the board of governors in Belleville and they are concerned about these 11 extended care beds which were supposed to go there and as of yet have never been committed. They would like an answer and so would I.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Since 1985, I believe we have announced almost 3,000 chronic care beds in this province. I can look to determine whether or not the institution that the honourable member mentioned was part of that allocation. If it was, I can tell him that we are in the process of planning for those beds and that it is expected they will be coming on stream in due course.

TREE PLANTING

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources on the ministry's

policy of contracting out wherever possible. This is happening across the north, but I will use the Blind River district as an example.

Before 1985, there was no contracting out for tree planting; there were 40 tree planters on staff. Now in 1988, 100 per cent of that work is contracted out by the ministry; there are no local tree planters working.

What would the minister want me to say to my constituent, Ron Nyman, who has worked as a tree planter for the ministry for 18 years and now has no job because of his policy? What does the minister have to say to the community of Blind River that is going to lose a total payroll of about \$375,000 this year because he is contracting out work that belongs to the local people in Blind River?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do believe that my first obligation is to make certain that we have sustained yield in the forests of this province; and for a good long time that could not be said. I am saying now that we brought in a new initiative when we brought in Dr. Baskerville. We are doing the kind of things to take the initiative on making certain that we have the kind of resource in northern Ontario that is going to keep the jobs there, that is going to keep the mills going and that is going to provide the parks and those other things for the people of northern Ontario. That is my first responsibility.

If we have changed somewhat where it has impacted on people, at the same time we have interceded on the part of some of the planters with the people who have the contracts to hire local people to the degree that it can be done. I am very anxious to do that. If the honourable member brings those kinds of things to my attention, I am very much willing to see what I can do to have that particular initiative taken where the tree planting is going on.

But, in Ontario last year, we planted 163 million trees. We planted twice the number that we harvested. I have to tell the honourable member that the forests in northern Ontario are in good shape and we are providing the kind of initiative that is going to put the resource here.

When the honourable member has the kind of question that he posed today, I am very willing to see what I can do to make certain the workers in that area get the jobs.

Mr. Wildman: Surely the minister, if he is interested in sustained yield, would be interested in having experienced people do the work rather than students who have never done the job before. If the minister is really as concerned as he says he is, can he explain why at the Kirkwood

Tree Nursery in Thessalon there has been no spring sowing this year and the workers have been told there would only be three or four weeks' work for eight people this year because the sowing has been contracted out to private nurseries? What does he say to the people of Thessalon—that community that is going to lose an annual payroll of about \$145,000 this year because of that contracting out?

Is he not also worried that the nursery stock that he is going to get from the private operators will not have the same success and quality that they have had for years at the Kirkwood Tree Nursery?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have made it very clear to the people in my ministry who are in charge of the nurseries across this province that even though there are contracted-out nurseries that were here before I came along, we will maintain a nursery in every section of the province so that we will know if the people who are producing in a private way are doing it successfully, and if they have losses, we will know whether it is because they were not tended properly.

The one thing I can assure the member—I think it is very important—is that even though we have our young people out there planting trees, they are being supervised, and we now have a process that says we not only plant the tree but, more important, we see to it that it is free to grow. It is tended, and things are done that were never done before to make certain that tree reaches maturity before we count it in our inventory. Those things are happening and those young people are doing it very—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The members are not interested.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Algoma has had a question; he has had a supplementary. Now we will have a question from the member for Durham East.

DARLINGTON NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

Mr. Cureatz: I appreciate this opportunity to ask my first question of the Minister of Energy. I notice that the Minister of Energy had the opportunity of visiting the riding of Durham East and the Darlington generating station. I find it passing strange that he forgot to invite me to the tour. I am sure the invitation is still in the mail.

I want to ask the minister, when he visited the generating station, did he also have the opportunity of visiting with the region of Durham council and the town of Newcastle council, and did he

assure the council that Ontario Hydro will make available the community fund to those two municipalities so that they can fight Metropolitan Toronto's hope of grabbing land in the town of Newcastle for their landfill site?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I have a two-part answer. First, I agree 100 per cent with the first part of the honourable member's question and invite him 1,000 per cent the next time I go to visit the plant in his vicinity.

With respect to the second answer, no, I did not meet with the Durham council.

Mr. Cureatz: With respect to the generating station, did the minister have the opportunity of being convinced by Ontario Hydro that the select committee on energy will no doubt bring down a report, under the demand-supply options study, that the residents of Ontario will be needing more electricity by the year 2000, and therefore, he will be in a position to recommend to cabinet the construction of Darlington 2?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I have a great deal of respect for the 11-member all-party committee, the select committee on energy, and look forward to whatever its conclusions are.

EDUCATION OF HEARING-IMPAIRED

Mr. Black: This morning during private member's session, a resolution proposed by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) was approved by the House.

That resolution dealt with a review of educational programs for the profoundly deaf within this province. There were many of us who supported that resolution in principle but are concerned that it was too narrow.

My question is to the Minister of Education. Would he, at this point, make a commitment to undertake or to have his ministry undertake a wide-ranging review of programs for the profoundly deaf and the hearing-impaired and to report back to this House on the outcome of that review?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Unfortunately, I was unable to be present for most of the debate that took place this morning, although I will say that my parliamentary assistant, the member for Ottawa-Rideau (Mrs. O'Neill), very effectively put forward some of the concerns that our ministry had relative to the scope and the nature of the proposed review.

I will say, however, that I compliment the member for Scarborough West in bringing forward his resolution. I support the principle behind his resolution. We will be looking into the

matter very carefully and, hopefully, coming forward with a response in the very near future.

1450

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. D. S. Cooke: My question is to the Minister of Education. The minister will be aware that the deadline for submissions for school board budgets to his ministry was April 30. The minister will be further aware that it is illegal for boards of education in the province to submit budgets that have a built-in deficit, and he will know that the Windsor Roman Catholic Separate School Board submitted a budget to him with a \$3-million deficit because of his government's failure to address the Macdonald commission report and come up with an adequate and fair response to the sharing of commercial and industrial assessment. How does the minister intend to deal with school boards that have submitted budgets with deficits?

Hon. Mr. Ward: As the member indicates, the deadline for the submission of school board budgets was April 30 of this year. As I am sure the member is well aware, section 127 of the Education Act does not permit a school board to submit an unbalanced or a deficit budget. We will be reviewing those budgets as they come in and we will take whatever action is necessary to ensure that boards do not enter into deficit financing arrangements.

I would also like to add that I do not accept the member's premise that the reason for boards to submit unbalanced budgets is a result of any failure or lack of commitment on the part of this government to transfer funds to those boards. As the member knows full well, there was a 7.2 per cent increase in the general legislative grants that were made available this year.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister knows that the Catholic school boards in this province cannot possibly compete with public school boards and offer fair and equal programs until he comes up with a solution to the sharing of the industrial and commercial assessment in the province. All day we have been getting answers that just repeat the questions we have asked. I know the deadline was April 30 and I know it is illegal. My question is, what is the minister going to do?

He has known they were going to do this for quite some time. They passed their budget and set their mill rate. Is he going to be rejecting the budgets and putting the school boards in real jeopardy or is he going to come up with a solution and implement some recommendations in his response to the Macdonald commission?

Hon. Mr. Ward: In responding to the member's preamble, I would like to reiterate that the member should know full well that the province utilized an equalized mill rate in terms of establishing the rate of grant for different boards so that it reflects the relative wealth of different board jurisdictions.

I want to indicate to the member that clearly, deficit financing for school boards is not permitted under the act. There are a number of measures that are available to the ministry in dealing with that, and frankly if we have to utilize those measures, we will.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Villeneuve: My question is to the Minister of Education. The Leeds and Grenville County Board of Education had very high on its list of priorities a new public school in the Kemptville area and major renovations to the high school in Kemptville. They received nothing. What do I tell these people and the board of education?

Hon. Mr. Scott: Resign.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I think I have responded on many occasions over the course of the past few weeks on the methods that were used in determining the allocations of this year's capital program. The projects that were selected this year were selected solely on the basis of need. As members know, this budget made a provision for some \$900 million over the course of the next three years for the provision of funds for school capital.

Unfortunately, that amount of money does not match all the requests that are outstanding from boards of education throughout this province, but I think that over the course of the next three years we can go a long way to meeting the needs of school boards and students throughout this province.

Mr. Villeneuve: I find the Attorney General's comment regarding "resign" just very typical of the arrogance this government has towards eastern Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a supplementary?

Mr. Villeneuve: Can I in all honesty go to these people and say the Minister of Education will seriously consider their request next year?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I think the member can in all honesty return to his riding and indicate to the people of eastern Ontario that funding for capital projects under the administration of the eastern Ontario regional office of the Ministry of Education, funding in that particular region, has

been increased this year by 125 per cent over last year. I think he may also want to convey to those people that the amount of funds for new capital this year is some four times what it was during the last year of the previous government.

He may want to indicate to his constituents that we are trying, with some difficulty, to meet the accumulated needs that have come about as a result of the decades of neglect of the previous administration. He can also indicate to the good people in his riding that this is, indeed, a three-year program. We regret that more funds were not made available for renovation and renewal.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think the member has been given a fairly full answer.

The time for oral questions has expired.

Mr. Harris: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: When we get down to a minute or half a minute at the end of question period and you allow the minister and the government to make enough noise, and when you stand on your feet and ask them to take their place so we can get our last question in and they ignore you for 30 seconds, it is not reasonable to penalize those who want to ask questions.

Hon. Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I certainly would not want to deny the House another question.

Ms. Bryden: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: In order of rotation, I would be the next questioner, but because you were still on your feet, I did not get up.

Mr. Speaker: No, I think the honourable member is probably incorrect. You were not the next. The member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) offered the last question.

Mr. Harris: Still on the point, Mr. Speaker: I thought you were recognizing that in fact there should have been one more question. Surely you saw me, and I saw you look at me, on my feet with four seconds left on the clock, and I think we should—

Mr. Speaker: We certainly could have had another question in the last short while. Really, I could go over the lengths of time it has taken for some questions and some responses. I do appreciate that I was on my feet.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I stated that time for oral questions had expired.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition from 120 residents of the Madoc area which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows, our very strong opposition to opening of retail stores for Sunday shopping."

I also have another petition from 21 members of the Thomasburg United Church, which reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of the province of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows, our very strong opposition to opening of retail stores for Sunday shopping."

1500

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Two days ago I presented in this House a piece of legislation that would put an end to the labour dispute that is affecting thousands of disabled people in Metro and in the region of Peel. At the time I presented that piece of legislation for first reading, because of the tremendous urgency of these people being captive in their own homes, on Tuesday I requested all-party unanimous consent that the standing orders be set aside and that we proceed immediately to second reading.

Mr. Speaker: Under what standing order?

Mrs. Marland: I think it is 34(c). I did look it up a few moments ago.

My purpose in standing today is that at that time, the government House leader said he could not agree to unanimous consent of this House because he had not seen the piece of legislation that all-party consent was being requested on. Now that the government House leader has seen that bill, I am today asking for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. With respect, the honourable member stated she was referring to 34(c), which says, "On the introduction of a government bill," etc.

Mrs. Marland: Well, I am sorry.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened very carefully, and it seems that probably would have been a good question during question period.

Mrs. Marland: No, it is a point of order; I am sorry.

Mr. Speaker: The member is asking, for the second time, permission for second reading of her bill.

Mr. Harris: She is asking for unanimous consent, which you can do at any time.

Mr. Speaker: No; sorry. I asked the honourable member, on what standing order?

Mr. Harris: She made a mistake. Now she has asked for unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Petitions.

Mrs. Marland: May I have another point of order, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Another point of order?

Mrs. Marland: On a point of order, and I refer to standing order 84, on page 25, which says that I may request unanimous consent of this House to set aside standing orders as they relate to private bills. My request is to set aside standing orders and have unanimous consent to deal with this very critical, important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker: It is so obvious. The member is referring to a reference to private bills in the standing orders. Her bill is a private member's bill. It has nothing to do with this particular standing order.

Mr. Breagh: Perhaps I can help. I believe the member is seeking unanimous consent to have second reading of her bill. I think it would be simpler to put the question instead of squabbling over the rules. Could we do that?

Mr. Speaker: I understand the member is asking for unanimous consent for the second time for second reading of her bill. Is there unanimous agreement?

Negatived.

Mr. Breagh: See? Much quicker.

Mr. Speaker: There.

Petitions, the member for Willowdale.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Mr. Matrondola: I have a petition signed by a number of my constituents, and I have also fixed my signature to it.

The petition is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we are concerned about the possible destruction of our environment due to the deterioration of the earth's ozone layer, as

reported by Friends of the Earth, 53-53 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5C5;

"We urge the Ontario government to give serious attention to the goals of the ozone protection campaign to be undertaken by Friends of the Earth.

"We are also concerned about the destructive effects of acid rain and the problem of garbage disposal and, concerning the latter, would welcome recycling procedures."

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Harris: Under this sign—"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far"—which was shown, the following petition was circulated:

"We, the undersigned taxpayers of the province of Ontario, do hereby demand, in the light of a very strong provincial economy, that the provincial government of Ontario rescind certain tax increases as proposed in their 1988 budget, namely:

"The one per cent increase in the provincial sales tax (from seven per cent to eight per cent).

"The one per cent increase in personal income tax for both 1988 and 1989.

"The gasoline tax increase (a) four cents per litre for leaded gasoline; (b) one cent per litre for unleaded gasoline."

This petition is signed by 2,000 petitioners.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It says, in part:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas Premier David Peterson's plan to change retail store hours will transform Sunday into just another day for doing business, we request that consideration be given to the views of 159 persons from Mississauga and some other parts of Ontario who have signed" this petition.

The petition also says: "We love our families. Don't legislate employees to work on Sundays. We don't need wide-open Sunday shopping."

I lend my signature to that petition.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the select committee on constitutional reform be authorized to meet in the morning of and following routine proceedings on each Wednesday during the month of June 1988.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ZOO LICENSING ACT

Mr. Philip moved first reading of Bill 129, An Act to regulate the Care of Animals kept for Exhibition or Entertainment.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Philip: This has nothing to do with the televised version of the legislative proceedings. Instead, it requires persons to acquire a licence to operate a garden, park or other establishment that keeps animals for the purpose of exhibition to or entertainment of the public. The bill does not apply to circuses or shops.

Applicants for a licence are required to submit a detailed plan demonstrating how they propose to care for the animals and ensuring that they have adequate financing to properly care for the animals. The bill also sets standards and allows the ministry the right to remove the licence for reasons.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Conway: Before the orders of the day, and for the particular benefit of my friend the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean), I would like to table a number of answers to questions previously placed in Orders and Notices [see Hansard for Monday, May 9].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Neumann: I take pleasure today in participating in this debate on the government's budgetary policies, as enunciated by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) on April 20.

The budget enunciated by the Treasurer indicates a clear policy on the part of the Liberal government to fulfil commitments made by the Peterson government. It provides for necessary investments for the future, maintaining the high quality of services expected by the citizens of Ontario. It assures Ontario's ability to compete in the global economy, and it provides for all of these actions in a fiscally responsible manner.

1510

I would like to go into some detail with respect to each of these four points.

First, with regard to commitments, services and investments in the future, the budget enunciated will increase revenues for Ontario to meet important needs which the people of Ontario have clearly stated to the representatives of this Legislature.

With respect to transportation, as a former mayor of the city of Brantford, I know that our transportation and urban infrastructure is in need of continual updating. It is in need of the building of new roads to invest in the future. This budget provides an additional \$100 million towards transportation infrastructure.

We view the road and transit systems of this province as a way of moving people and goods, but we sometimes forget that roads and transportation arteries are an important element in the economic development of our province.

I can point to a local example. For years, the people in our area have lobbied for the completion of Highway 403. Some would view it as a local request, but Highway 403 is an important transportation artery, part of the important four-lane highway system connecting major important areas in this province.

Highway 403 links from Highway 401 at Woodstock through Brantford, Hamilton, Burlington, Oakville, Mississauga and up to Highway 401 near the airport. That is where it should link; but there are missing links. The previous government sought to find missing links, something like the people who are interested in evolution seeking the missing link. I think the previous government had trouble finding the missing links in Highway 403. They are very evident.

At the present time, construction is being completed on the final section to link Highway 403 to Highway 401 at Woodstock. We have a commitment that construction will begin next year on the section between Brantford and Ancaster, which would then link to Highway 403 at Burlington. There are also plans to fulfil the missing link between Burlington and Oakville.

This highway will be part of the four-lane system that will link the important border crossing points at Windsor and Sarnia to border crossing points at Niagara Falls and Buffalo. It will link east-west to the important tourism destinations of Niagara Falls and Metropolitan Toronto.

It is not just important for our community, the city of Brantford; it is important for all of southwestern Ontario that this highway system be completed. It is an important investment in the economic development potential of southwestern

Ontario. I am pleased that an additional \$100 million has been added to the budget to move this project forward.

Second, with respect to education, this government has, in the space of four budgets, quadrupled the number of dollars going towards capital projects in education. It reverses the trend of underfunding which was characteristic of the previous government.

It is true that during the past four years, with the growth in the economy, there have been additional pressures for services. Indeed, the buoyant Ontario economy has attracted an in-migration to the province of some 2,000 people a week. Over the course of a year, that is over 100,000 people being attracted to this province. All of those people demand and require the services that people in our province are used to and this has put an additional demand on facilities in schools and a various range of services.

I am pleased that over a three-year period, \$900 million has been allocated for capital construction in education. In our community, three important schools, Brier Park, St. Leo and St. John's College, are going to get their additions and expansions, eliminating a number of portables that are currently on these three locations.

This fulfils a commitment made by the government last year, by the previous Minister of Education, that St. John's College, at least, was high on the priority list for our region. I am very pleased that within days of the budget being announced, the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) was able to concretely announce the expansion of St. John's College and, in addition to that, announce funding for St. Leo and Brier Park as well.

In addition, funding for education will help to improve the quality of education across the province. With respect to colleges and universities, we have a \$440-million capital fund, we have an \$88-million university accessibility fund and \$65 million for student housing.

In our community, we have young people graduating from high schools and going on to colleges and universities in all parts of the province. I am very pleased that this government has made a commitment over the last three years to improve funding for post-secondary education. It is not only important for the young people attending these facilities, it is also an important investment in the future of this province.

In research and development areas and in the skills and training that our young people will

receive—I really should not say young people only, because more and more adults are going back to college and university for upgrading and retraining and taking courses, and indeed senior citizens are starting to enter colleges and universities in increasing numbers; so it is not just young people. A whole range of our population from many different backgrounds is taking advantage of the opportunities at colleges and universities.

We have a particular need in Brantford and Brant county in that we do not have a college or university of our own. We are in the area of responsibility of Mohawk College, which is centred in Hamilton. For years our area was underserved, and it still is. Although progress has been made in bringing full-time college programming to our community with satellite campuses of Mohawk College, it is nowhere near the level that is needed, so I know firsthand the tremendous needs that exist across this province.

To fulfil those needs you need dollars, and this budget provides the dollars necessary to fulfil the needs of colleges and universities, not completely—and they never will be completely fulfilled; there are always demands beyond what is able to be done—but I believe the investment which this government has indicated in colleges and universities will be a big step forward and will enhance the possibility of our getting the funding in our area for an expanded Mohawk College in Brant county. Certainly the message has been made very clear by the people of the area, in petitions, in letters and in delegations to the minister and to the Premier (Mr. Peterson).

With respect to housing, a lot of attention is focused on the greater Metropolitan Toronto region. Certainly housing conditions are exhibiting severe strain in this area, with very low vacancy rates. The government in this budget provides for the construction of 30,000 rental units, provides the Ontario home ownership savings plan for first time home buyers and will assist in the development of affordable housing in a major way.

The city of Brantford also faces an extremely low vacancy rate, and we at the local level are pulling all elements of the community together to make sure that co-op housing projects and affordable housing projects are put forward for funding. The problem in our area has been that for some time community groups have not known how to provide the applications and have not indicated a willingness to come forward. At the local level, with the leadership of the city council, there is now a housing task force

working at encouraging applications to take advantage of the funding available. A number of affordable housing projects are now being applied for, and a number are under construction. Hopefully, with the funding provided in this budget, we can go a long way towards tackling the needs of housing in our community.

1520

With respect to health care, it is one of the largest areas of demand in our province. We have an excellent health care system in Ontario, but it requires major dollars to keep it going and to provide the technology necessary for modern health care. Thirty-nine per cent of the new funding in this budget goes towards health care. I am really pleased that this government, of which I am a part, is working away at meeting the needs of the province in the area of health care.

We have two fine hospitals in our community, three in Brant county in total, and they have tremendous needs. One of the problems we face is a shortage of acute care beds, because they are taken up by chronic care patients to some degree, and we have the local health council and various agencies working on this particular problem. It is important that we have adequate funding to take care of the health care needs of our province.

With respect to programs for child care, I am very pleased that there is a \$280-million program to implement the new directions for child care—a 68 per cent increase in the budget.

We have a working-class community with many two-income families and a lot of single-parent families in need of day care facilities. We are hoping that with the funding in this budget, we can increase the number of child care spaces in our community. There are a lot of local groups working at developing programs and facilities to meet the needs.

With respect to the environment, there is another major commitment, of \$426 million, which represents an increase of 51 per cent since 1984-1985. Here, I think, is a good example of what we mean when we say this is investment in the future. We all know that if we do not respect the environment, our children and their children will be the ones who will suffer. The environment around us is important to our survival, and in producing the goods and services that we demand in a modern society, we must be aware of the implications for the environment and the external costs, beyond the production process, that impact upon the environment.

We have a dedicated Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who has moved a long way towards tackling the issues that are really crucial

to a clean environment in Ontario. This budget will continue that trend and that thrust.

Many other areas could be touched on. I would like, however, to switch to another point, and that is Ontario's ability to compete in the global economy.

We know that Ontario is the manufacturing centre of Canada. We have many fine industries that produce for the Ontario market, the Canadian market, the North American market and indeed export to many parts of the world.

The buoyant economy has reflected growth in manufacturing and various areas of production over the last several years. It is important, however, that we remain in the forefront of this growth, that we maintain our industries in a very competitive fashion, that they gear up for the future and that we have the technologies that can increase productivity and get into new product lines and areas of service to meet the needs of our people and the export opportunities around the world.

I am very pleased, therefore, that in this budget we have a number of initiatives that will contribute to that.

The research and development super allowance, which provides an extra 25 per cent deduction for large firms and an extra 35 per cent deduction for small firms, is expected to require a \$45-million expenditure in this area. This will encourage Ontario firms already involved in research and development in a big way and encourage greater involvement in research and development.

We have suffered in the past because Ontario's industries to some degree were branch-plant industries and did not get involved in research and development, but we have many new Canadian-based firms which have started up over the last several years which are interested in developing new product lines, and this initiative will encourage them to move forward.

We have in this budget a manufacturing investment incentive, a deduction of 15 per cent of the cost of new manufacturing equipment and machinery. Over a two-year period it is expected that \$150 million will be spent at maturity for this program. This should continue the direction which the Ontario economy has experienced in continued growth and investment in new areas. It will encourage manufacturers in Ontario to look for new product lines, to bring in new machinery, to try out new areas of investment.

With respect to efforts to help small firms, we have a \$38-million program to assist in hiring under the technology personnel program. Small

firms will be able to get involved in research and development through the hiring of personnel they are not able to hire at the present time. As well, an additional \$4 million has been allocated to skills development for new technicians and technologists in a skills updating program.

All of these efforts are important incentives for Ontario industry to proceed and move forward. I speak with some knowledge of this area, representing the community of Brantford, where we have gone through and are still going through a major adjustment.

Our community, the city of Brantford, is a manufacturing centre. Indeed, towards the end of the 19th century and at the turn of the century, we were one of the four leading manufacturing centres in all of Canada. At that time, the leading edge of growth in our community was farm equipment manufacturing. With the mechanization of agriculture making possible the providing of food for our entire population, with a very small percentage of the population involved in farming, mechanization of agriculture was the leading technological change of the 19th century, and provides the food for all of us today to live in the cities and be able to eat well.

With the opening up of lands in the west, an increased demand for agricultural equipment occurred, so at the turn of the century, our community was a very rapidly growing community and the economic health of the community depended on farm equipment manufacturing. However, as members know today, during the last decade this industry has suffered severely with the decline in world commodity prices and the demise of White Farm Equipment and Massey-Ferguson in our community. We have lost over 5,000 jobs in the highest-paid manufacturing industries in our town.

It has been necessary to make the adjustment to diversification to encourage new industries to settle in the community and to provide replacement jobs for those lost. This is not an easy task at all, but I am pleased to report that quite a few new industries have moved into the community and I am very pleased that the thrust in this budget will encourage expansion in manufacturing.

I recently had the opportunity of bringing the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) into Brantford for a meeting with civic officials. We reviewed the various projects under way and the various applications from industries that are looking to locate in our community, and also reviewed with him the current efforts of the receiver to market the Massey-Ferguson lands so that they can once again be used as fine

production facilities for some other area of manufacturing.

We hope that with the initiatives in this budget and with the important commitment of the several cabinet ministers involved, our community will make the transition and that the shock we have gone through over the last several years with the loss of 5,000 jobs will not lead to the demise of the community but will lead ultimately to its strengthening; recognizing, of course, that there are individuals and families going through severe dislocation and here we need the retraining, we need the labour adjustment programs and we need the assistance to those individuals.

1530

We can turn things around, and I know that the Ontario Development Corp., as part of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology, has played an important role in assisting our community.

In conclusion, I would like to deal with the fourth point, and that is that this budget not only maintains the commitments of the Peterson government, it maintains the level of servicing that Ontarians have come to expect. It looks to the future in terms of our competitiveness in the global economy, it invests in the future for our young people and it does all this in a fiscally responsible manner.

This budget continues the trend started by the current Treasurer for deficit reduction. It does so in an organized, deliberate manner over a period of years. We have a buoyant economy and we should by no means be looking at an increase in our deficit at this time. At the same time, we have other deficits in the community. We have deficits in facilities and we have deficits in programs. We have heard from people all over this province, in many groups, of the needs in housing, in health care, in education and roads.

We have to meet those deficits and therefore it requires an increase in expenditure. We should not look on this negatively; we should look on it positively—part of the demand for services today, as I mentioned, comes from an in-migration of people being attracted to Ontario because of the buoyancy—unlike the other two parties in this Legislature, one of which would increase the deficit to accomplish the needs and I do not know where the other stands.

I hear some of its members saying that we should be spending more money. Every day they stand up in the House and they ask this minister or that: “Why aren’t you spending more money on housing? Why aren’t you spending more money on education?”

At the same time, they call for us to reduce the taxes and eliminate the deficit. We are not magicians. We are realistic managers of the Ontario economy and we recognize that to meet the needs of this province, we have to pay the bills. The people of Ontario understand that. The people in my community understand it, that there are real needs out there, and I heard about them when I campaigned for office last summer. I heard about those needs.

It is going to make it a lot easier for me, as the representative for Brantford, to meet those needs if I can go to a cabinet minister who has some money in the budget to meet the needs. That is the explanation I am giving in my community and the people of my community understand that.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Neumann: I am drawing to a close.

[Applause]

Mr. Neumann: I knew I would find a way to get the opposition to applaud my comments.

This budget meets the needs in a fiscally responsible manner. It maintains a sensitivity to the needs of low-income people by taking additional numbers off the Ontario health insurance plan rolls; it enhances the property and sales tax credits being paid to low-income Ontarians; it provides additional shelter subsidies to people in need, and it places a 10 per cent surtax on incomes over \$85,000. So I believe this budget moves further along towards a progressive approach to taxation.

I recognize that we have a way to go and that perhaps in the future we can consider other initiatives. But at this time, this budget is realistic. It meets the needs of the people. It does not go all the way. It provides the revenues necessary to tackle immediate needs and to invest in the infrastructure that we need to continue a healthy economy in Ontario.

In conclusion, I would like to quote from the *Financial Times of Canada*, April 25 of this year. It says here that this is a courageous budget: "Whatever else may be said of him, Nixon can't be accused of lacking courage. In these uncertain times, raising taxes to pay for increases in government spending was bound to draw fire. The most politically attractive of the choices facing Nixon would have been to restrain spending, hold the line on the deficit and leave taxes alone. The public is inclined to believe that governments are instinctively wasteful and that cuts in spending are by definition desirable. But

Nixon may be correct in his belief that to pursue such a course today, when the province is on a roll, would undermine its economic future. 'Our obligation,' he says, 'is to invest in those areas that will keep Ontario competitive.'"

That concludes my speech on the note that I started off with. This is a far-sighted budget. It meets the needs of today and invests in Ontario's future. I fully support it.

Mr. Harris: The member talked about opposition parties being critical of how money is being spent, and I wonder if he could comment on a few examples. Does he think it is reasonable that since this Treasurer took office, OHIP billings by doctors have gone from about \$2.4 billion to something over \$4 billion, an increase of about \$1.7 billion or 70 per cent?

At the same time, we do not have enough nurses. At the same time, hospitals do not have enough money. At the same time, they cannot afford to implement at any time over the next six years—and they have been in there three, so that is nine years—the plans the former government had for redevelopment of psychiatric care in north-eastern Ontario. I wonder if the member thinks that \$1.7 billion—minus the \$50 million they saved from the federal government, so \$1.65 billion—is an appropriate way to spend the increase in the health care dollars.

I wonder if he thinks it is appropriate that at community colleges there is no money to adequately fund skills development. They have had to cancel programs at Canadore College in midstream. They take one year and then they say to them: "Sorry, kid. You can go home now. We are not going to complete the second year." But there is enough money for Humber College to build a marina and restaurant on Toronto waterfront lands, where we are supposedly going to have low-cost housing.

I wonder if the member thinks that it is appropriate that there is no money for schools, no money for the regular day care program, not enough money to do away with portables and, at the same time, there are hundreds of millions of dollars for public school boards to compete with separate school boards, community colleges, Young Men's Christian Associations and parks and recreation departments to run noncredit courses like basketball camp, summer camp, volleyball camp—all free, transportation all free. I wonder if he thinks those are appropriate ways to spend money.

Mr. Mahoney: One of the nice things and, I think, one of the advantages—and I am sure the Treasurer would agree—of having some Liberal

members on that side of the House is that the odd time we hear some common sense coming from that side of the Legislature. I would like to congratulate the member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann) and tell members that I know what a thoughtful person he is from his days as mayor of Brantford and serving on the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, where I had the privilege of serving with him.

It is nice to hear some positive comments in this Legislature about our budget from someone who has analysed the many benefits that are going to our different communities. He talked about the benefits to education. Our friends in the third party seem to go on and on as if there is nothing there or as if all we are doing is creating conflicts and problems, when the reality is that we have given more money in the region of Peel alone than the Conservatives gave to the entire province in their last time on this side of the House. So the third party should not tell us that we are not putting money where it is most needed.

I think the member for Brantford has clearly outlined the commitment of this government in health care, in child care, in the environment, in education, and he made a comment about housing. I was particularly interested in his comment in relationship to what is happening at the local level and I wonder if he might, when he has an opportunity to respond, from his local experience, tell us a little bit more about what is happening in Brantford. I can tell members, in my community in the region of Peel, we do something about housing, unlike some members opposite, most notably the critic for Housing, who does not even have a nonprofit housing corporation in his community and yet constantly stands up and criticizes this government for not delivering.

We deliver in our community, and I know they deliver in Brantford, and I would like to hear the honourable member's comments.

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Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to make just one comment pertaining to the comments of the member for Brantford pertaining to roads, highways and transit. I certainly can understand why he is enthusiastic about the budget providing money to fill the links, as he calls it, in his highway system. I am not opposed to that. They should be filled in but, in all fairness, does he not think there should be some money allocated to the other parts of the province?

The member made a statement that touched a raw nerve when he said how great this budget is

for western Ontario. I happen to represent a riding from western Ontario and I have not had too many people tell me how great it is. The Treasurer will know that the people there are a little more understanding about the expenditures of this government and its lack of control.

If the government does want to spend money on highways, does it not feel that some money should go to western Ontario, Highways 6 and 10, that serve up into the real part of the world, where the rural people live and where we have a lot of tourists in the summer and where we wish to attract tourism? There are very few dollars spent there. We cannot even get resurfacing, let alone capital expenditures. One mile of the superhighways in Hogtown, in this area the member speaks of, would build most of the highways we need in my part of the province for a good number of years. I think the government should give consideration to that.

Another aspect of the same ministry is the GO Transit and its extension: another \$33 million spent to extend the transit system. I support that, but surely we need bus lines in Wellington and further north.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am amazed that the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) would come forward with such an uncharacteristic doctor-bashing speech, and it is difficult for me to understand what he has against sending kids to camp in the summertime. I do not know what is happening to the Tory party but I would hate to think he was agreeing with the member for Brantford, who took a positive view of the budget.

The member for Brantford has an extensive and varied political background. On that basis, I feel that his judgement is extremely healthy, because there is a depth and a fabric there that not every member of the Legislature shares. The thing that impresses me most about the honourable member is that when he became mayor of that great city, it was just about at the time of the economic downturn in Canada and, as a matter of fact, in the whole of the western world.

He indicated in his speech that there were 5,000 of the best-paying jobs in Canada lost during that period of time, and the leadership that he and his council—but particularly he as mayor of Brantford—were able to show during those years really was exemplary. It was an extremely difficult situation with relatively slow recovery and the government of Ontario, which was Conservative in those days, and the government of Canada, which was Liberal, both fitted into the Brantford situation because the leadership

that was there made it easy for those programs to come to the assistance of the unemployed people and the problems the community was facing.

Now, if you were to visit Brantford, you would see a rebuilt and reinvigorated downtown, commitments to new and improved schools, that new highways are being built and that the whole of the economy of the Brantford and Brant county area has been reinvigorated. We owe the former mayor, the present member for Brantford, a debt in this regard. His leadership was exemplary.

Mr. Neumann: The member for Nipissing certainly illustrated the example I was giving before, whereby members of the Conservative Party are continually calling upon the government for increased spending and then saying: "Reduce the deficit. Cut down on taxes." Certainly, there seems to be a lot of inconsistency not only between members of that caucus but also from that particular member himself.

With respect to the comments of the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney), I simply point out that co-op housing is really going strong. A few years ago we did not have any co-op housing in Brantford; now we have a lot of applications under way and pending. Also, I would commend the Brantford Jaycees for their nonprofit housing project. They have brought 90 units on stream and they are doing an excellent job in the city of Brantford. As well, there is a lot of co-ordination taking place out of city hall to encourage new applications from community groups and to assist them to get through the process.

In commenting on the comment of the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) about highways, I encourage him to put forward his case for highways in his area. I am sure that he has a much better chance of being heard and having success than he did under the previous Conservative governments when the trend was to reduce the expenditure on highways over the years. Now we are gradually making up for that deficit.

Mr. Breagh: I participate with a little bit of regret in this budget debate. Those members who know me know that I am somewhat of a fan of this place and the process and the procedure. This budget did not exactly get off in the way that budgets normally do here where there normally is a clear beginning to the process. We set aside some time and the Treasurer makes his grand speech and we respond to that and receptions are held and things of that nature go on.

But I must say if there ever was a budget that really should have been slipped under the door in the middle of the night, this one is it. If there ever was an act of mercy created by this Legislature, it was in preventing the Treasurer from having to read this budget. I say that with not very much meanness in my voice because I respect the Treasurer and have for a long time. Members who have been around here for a while know that he and I share some views in common, and one of the things we do share is a respect for this place and the process that goes on here.

I think that in part those of us who have been with him in this chamber in opposition and while he has been the Treasurer have learned to respect his views about a number of things, mainly those about fairness. He consistently argued over the years that the tax laws in Ontario were often very unfair and that they often had a negative impact on those who were virtually defenceless to fight back against them. I have often heard him make speeches that there are those in Ontario who can defend themselves against almost any taxation measure which a government would care to try—they will find the loophole in the law or their accountants will discover for them some shelter from the storm—and there are those who are particularly vulnerable to taxation techniques.

Unfortunately, at a time, if there ever was a time, when the Treasurer of Ontario could sit back and say, "Here is where I make my move for fairness in the taxation system; this is the time," he chose not to exercise that option. I think what surprised so many of us was not that in the first year of a huge majority government, all of a sudden there is a need to raise taxes. We anticipated that. Every Tory government I have ever seen in here with a majority did just that. The timing is such that in the first year of a majority they raise taxes and in the last year of a majority, just prior to the election, they try to make it appear as if there are no taxation measures at all at work in Ontario. That is normal.

What I did not anticipate, quite frankly, is that—I have heard this Treasurer talk at great length on many occasions in this chamber about what is a fair tax and what is unfair—it seems to me that he and his staff sat down and decided, "How many different ways can I tax people every day?" and used them all. He tried to put forward a budget which in some ways looks modest. A one per cent increase in our retail sales tax does not look like a great deal, unless you have some measured understanding of how many times that

one per cent hits someone and how many times that brings in revenue.

I listened with some interest as we discussed why he did not use a tax on land speculation. He said, initially, because it did not work. It struck me as odd. What does he mean it did not work? What he meant, and it is now clear that this is what he meant, was that it does not produce revenue consistently over a long period of time for the government, and I suppose from that perspective, that is right. But the purpose of taxation on speculation is not to generate gobs of money for the government. It is to stop the practice.

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Maybe the next logical step, if the government does not choose to use that weapon, is that perhaps it would choose to make land speculation illegal, as it would, for example, insider trading on the stock market. Of course, one of the difficulties it will have to overcome is that the biggest land speculator in the province now is the province of Ontario. It chooses to go into land speculation and it defends the action by saying, "Well, we will give back a percentage of the revenues we get from land speculation to produce affordable housing." That is not good enough and I think the minister knows that.

You see, the surprise for me, having watched somebody like Darcy McKeough present a budget in this chamber, is that one look at Darcy McKeough tells you everything about the man. You can disagree with everything that McKeough ever said when he was Treasurer of Ontario, but you simply had to respect who he was and that he put all his values right out front. One glimpse of him would tell you, "Here is someone from the corporate world, from a powerful political heritage." You know what his priorities will be, you know whom he will tax and whom he will not and you know exactly what you are dealing with.

This Treasurer has a reputation that is quite the opposite of that, as a Treasurer who makes a great deal of the fact that he comes from rural Ontario, that he is a man of modest means, that he is a fair guy, that he hangs out at Earl's Shell Service and takes advice from those esteemed gentlemen who reside therein. So it was a problem for me to get over the magnitude of the taxation grab that was at work here.

I gave him the benefit of the doubt, I suppose, because I have known him for some time. I watched him yesterday afternoon go out to the front steps of the Legislature and it seems to me that there, for the first time, he saw what I see,

people saying: "This is getting ridiculous. There are people who are wealthy and powerful who are paying no taxes, and there are those of us who stick a bucket under our arm and go to work at a factory early in the morning every day of our working lives." Or the young woman who worked at a gasoline bar all night and came down here to the protest at noon hour the next day.

What they are trying to do is eke out a living, and in the midst of all this prosperity it sounds as if that should be an easy thing, but for many of our people it is not. A modest taxation effort, to some people, is an inconvenience. If you are affluent, a one per cent raise in a retail sales tax is an aggravation and you do not like it, but it really does not make much difference to you or your family or your income. If you are poor, if you are on a pension, every time the government takes a dollar out of your wallet, it means there is less money for something else.

That is why in many ways people are beginning to recognize the dramatic impact, for example, of food banks on our society. Why is it that in even relatively affluent neighbourhoods these days, food banks are on the rise and people need them? Simply because the cost of housing detracts from their ability to spend money for other things, and that is what made me step back a bit on this budget, to look at it initially and to look at what was done.

Now, I have heard a number of rationalizations as to why the Treasurer in this great economic boom decided to do what he did. Perhaps it is true that this will be the last year when the Treasurer of Ontario has an ability, virtually by himself, to get at something like a retail sales tax. Perhaps by another fiscal year the federal government of Canada, in its machinations about sharing of taxation approaches, will have removed some of his autonomy. Maybe he does really believe that in four years' time nobody will remember that.

I have in the back of my mind something that bothers me. The Treasurer of Ontario may be right. It may well be true that four years from now, the Treasurer will not talk to anybody about raising taxes. He will say: "Here we are again. It is time for another election. Build a rink. Build a road. Build whatever you want to build. Come to a conference. Have one of these cheques on me. Come to our reception. Pull out the shrimp. Do it all." I do not doubt that—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I am making notes.

Mr. Breaugh: He says he is making notes, but he does not have a crayon in his hand, so he is probably not.

It may be true, sadly, that this is what is going on here. Sadly, it may be true that people will forget.

I know that in my own community I have never seen a budget presented that drew so much fire on the streets. I do not know what it is. Maybe it was just the last little bit that really ticked them off, but I have to say this, they are talking about this in Oshawa a lot, in the truck plant, in the shopping malls, in the rinks and on the ball diamonds. They are aware of what is going on and they are angry. If the Treasurer thought the anger he saw out front from a relatively small crowd yesterday was anything, he should come to my town and walk around it for a while and he will hear it much more.

There are some, I know, who objected to the young woman from Oshawa who came and said some things on the front steps of the Legislature that perhaps were unparliamentary, but she was mild. There were very few adjectives I heard coming out of her mouth. When you walk around the streets on their home turf, they tell you quite freely what they think of this, and they are mad, really mad.

Let me talk a little about some other things I think have to be said. We have discussed housing matters a lot in this chamber in the last little while. There are some terrible ironies having to do with housing.

This government, if it chose to, is positioned as well as any government in the world could be to deal with the housing crisis. I cannot think of another government in the world that has 90 per cent of the land in the province in its hands. It has the one commodity you need to be effective in providing housing programs—land. When you talk to people who are trying to build affordable housing, they will tell you their big problem is the cost of land.

The province has that land. It was not its decision. It was a fantasy of the previous Treasurer to acquire land, put it into land banks and get it ready to build affordable housing at some point in time. That Treasurer was a Tory. He had the idea of getting it together. He did not know what to do with it after he assembled it. This Treasurer is supposedly not a Tory, but I am saddened to see that he has the land and he decides to become a land speculator, as opposed to using it.

I want to work this in somewhere too: Today I got a reply to a question I put in Orders and Notices about how much land the province does own. The province is still officially saying, "We

don't know." It is saying, "We are not sure how much property we have in Ontario."

I cannot believe that. I know that as a member of this chamber I cannot accuse anybody of anything, but I can put on the record that I do not believe that at all. I do not believe Ontario does not know what properties it owns in Metropolitan Toronto. I think it does. It may not have a complete inventory, but I believe it has a pretty good idea. What is more, I will bet there are computers near this building that have computerized records of how much property is owned by Ontario here in Metropolitan Toronto and all across Ontario. I bet that at Toronto city hall they could spin those computers and give us a printout this afternoon of exactly who owns what properties in Toronto.

I believe that could be done. What is happening here is the government is saying, "We don't want to tell you."

I do know this: If you drive around or take the TTC around this community, you can get some visible awareness of how much land is owned by the province and how much of it is appropriately used and how much of it is not. I cannot defend why Ontario needs to own parking lots in downtown Toronto, because it does not. I cannot defend why the Ontario Provincial Police needs to have its headquarters down at the lakeshore, because it does not, or the Liquor Control Board of Ontario or a whole range of other things.

I do know that Ontario, if it wanted to immediately address the problem of affordable housing in this community, has the land now. It will not work if its response is to say, "We will sell the land and then we will use a percentage of that money to buy other land elsewhere."

The answer is embarrassingly obvious. Why do they not use the substantial amount of property they have now to develop affordable housing? Second, why do they not take all the resources that are out there in the community, a variety of groups now, that want to provide nonprofit, affordable housing? They continue to kind of ride herd on those people and make their job difficult.

In my community, in many communities, there are all kinds of people with different kinds of ideas on how you would provide affordable housing. In my community, I guess the biggest one would be some form of co-op housing, and it has been a tradition in my community for a long time. There are parts of Oshawa and over into Whitby where you will see co-op projects that were done in the 1930s and 1940s, so the idea is well accepted by the community.

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It does not mean you will not have fights and arguments and all that. Of course you will, as in any other concept that we try to put in. But if you really want to proceed, there is an awareness around the province that the need is there. There is an awareness that the government of Ontario has an obligation to respond to that. There are the groups with the ideas to do that. The money can be found. It can be done. This government chooses not to do it.

The government of Ontario takes a rather strange attitude towards business, I find. There are those who would argue that when you deal with affordable housing, the private sector has a big role to play. Perhaps people do not understand what a businessman is in business to do.

People who are in the land development business are not there to do social good. It does not mean they are bad people. They are there to make money. It is as simple and as straightforward as that. That is highly legal and highly respected by a great many people in our nation, but they are not there to provide affordable housing. If they can make more money by providing luxury condominiums to a market than they can by providing low-cost affordable housing, there is not even a decision to be made; they will provide luxury condominiums. That is why they are in business. It is not a charitable organization; it is a business. They are straightforward about it. They will accept all kinds of conditions you might want to put on them, but they want some fairness.

For example, those members who have spent some time on municipal councils will be familiar with the argument from the development industry that lot levies are unfair. The industry does not like them. But there is not one developer around Ontario who has said, "I do not like lot levies, so I am going out of business." What they do is accept them. That is a cost of doing business in that community. Many of us who sat on councils when lot levies were first introduced had to bear the brunt of the tough political argument, and it really got pretty basic.

We simply had to say to developers who wanted to build new subdivisions: "We cannot afford to put in the roads and the sewers and the amenities you need to put in a subdivision these days. If you want to build, we have to find a system which allows you to prepay those services. If we can do that, you will be able to proceed." They said, "Well, we want to proceed, for sure." So we said, "Here's a way we can think of that we can finance the construction of the

sewers and roads and other services you need to develop."

Not one of them liked it, but they all said, "OK, if that's what we have to do, that's what we'll do." They have done that. It does not mean they are going to stop arguing about it. They never will do that. They are business people. They know a good argument can sometimes save them a lot of money.

That is why I was a little apprehensive, frankly, when I saw the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) rise yesterday and start to make his statement about planning stuff. I guess in a sense it is fortunate he did not really say anything. But I always get a little apprehensive when I see a government saying, "We're going to rearrange the Planning Act here."

There are ways I can think of where I would be real happy about that if the government said, "We want to see in every official plan across Ontario an allocation of 25 per cent of the residential units that come on stream to be for affordable housing," and went on and defined what it meant by "affordable housing" a little bit tighter, and all the municipalities had to play by the same rules. Some would say: "What do you mean? You're telling us what to do." But all would have to face the fairness argument that everybody is being required to pitch in on this effort.

The development industry, I am sure, would scream that it is wrong, that it is unfair, that it is socialism, that it is a whole lot of things, but in the end, as long as everybody had to face the same set of conditions, they would accept it.

The reason the private sector is not building affordable housing now is pretty clear. It does not want to, does not have to and can make more money building some other kind of housing accommodation. That seems to me to be an eminently logical argument from their side. They did not go into business to provide for social needs. They went into business to make money and that is all they are doing. That is why, when previous government programs gave money to the private sector and we did not get affordable housing from it, no one should have been surprised, because there never was a requirement to build affordable housing. There was a faint hope that if you gave somebody in the development industry \$3 million or \$4 million, he might do something good down the line.

These people are not stupid. If they qualify for government grants, they will get them. They do not need the money, but if the government is throwing it away, they know very well how to

apply for these funds. If there is no fine print that addresses the affordable housing side of the equation they will not do it; they will take the Renterprise money and build luxury condominiums. The government cannot come back afterwards and say, "That wasn't why we gave you the money," because they will hold up the conditions under which they received the money and say: "If you wanted us to build affordable housing, why on earth didn't you say so? What you said was that you had money to give us, and we're always interested in that." That is exactly what they did.

Let me suggest a couple of things that I am sure are not new and that the government may want to consider for a while, particularly having to do with housing.

I watched, for example, the Toronto Home Builders' Association go through its deliberations on what it might do as an industry to provide affordable housing.

I want to start by saying, as someone who has observed the planning process and the building process for a couple of decades now, that there is no question in my mind that if the private sector wanted to it could build affordable housing. It is also clear to me that it would be nuts to do that when it can take the same land now and make billions of dollars from it. That is apparent to me.

It is apparent to me that in the sale of luxury condominiums, and in rural estates which is now one of the trendier markets, people who own land of any kind, almost anywhere, can really make a huge profit from that; and they are going to do that. They are not going to forego their profits now to do what the government wants to do unless they have to; and in that case they will be looking for some fairness.

There are things governments could do that would solve some of the problems, but none of them are worth doing, in my opinion, unless the initial problem is solved.

If the purpose of the exercise is to provide decent, affordable housing for people, the government has to first say what that is and enter into good, solid business agreements on how it will produce that. That means the government cannot give away money to people any more without having the presence of mind to say, "Here's what we want at the end of this process, and here's how much this unit will rent or sell for," to deal with the matter of speculation.

All I am saying is what I am sure any good businessman would say: do not enter into open-ended contracts where you have no assur-

ances you will get what you are looking for at the end of the process.

Let me run through the list of things the government should not do, which is fairly short. Do not get involved in give-away programs to anybody. In Ontario, every scheme you could think of to give away money has been devised, run by a government and proven to be idiotic. If the government's version, as we have seen here, is to hand out cheques to people, it should be careful to whom it hands these cheques. It really has to understand that if it addresses the main problem first, the secondary problems will all fall into place afterwards.

But the government could do some things. The reason there are lot levies is that municipalities cannot afford to provide the services. The government could do something about reducing the price of a home in many communities by covering the cost of lot levies. The money would not go to the private sector; it would go to the municipality to provide the service.

If the government chose not to do that, it could simply say to any municipality around, "What's the problem you've got about allowing more development in your community?" Some of them will say, "Well, we have a sewer system that needs to be revamped and we can't afford to rebuild it." The government could do that. That would get more housing on stream.

I want to say this: I have no interest, none, in providing a way for the development industry to make more millions of dollars. If that is what this government chooses to do, it is crazy. The development industry does not need the government's help. It does not want its help, in many cases. It will probably take the money if the government offers it; just do not be stupid enough to do that.

If the government wants to assist people in developing new housing proposals, look at the real problems. For many groups, particularly for many nonprofit community groups, the government cannot have its bureaucrats tell them to go out and do market surveys of their communities. They do not know what it is. What it could do is say to its bureaucrats, "We're going to attach you to this community nonprofit group for a year, or until this development proposal is accomplished." Instead of telling somebody to go do a market survey in their community, they should go do it. That will be a useful expenditure of the taxpayer's dollar.

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Instead of having a bureaucrat sit around and design a new form to gather information from a

community group, why do they not attach that bureaucrat to a community group for a while to help that group put together the numbers in a way that the government needs to get its approval?

I watched as the minister made his announcement yesterday and he said, "I'm going to take down the minimum number of days that are used for a zoning application." That is not even the problem, folks. The problem is the maximum number of days that are actually used.

If he really wanted to do that and he really wanted to change in a substantive way a rather cumbersome planning process in Ontario, he would say to all of his bureaucrats: "You're going to get two cracks at planning matters. One will be when it is introduced. We'll give you 30 days to put your response into whatever the municipality is. If you can't get it done in 30 days, send them a letter. You will get another crack at the end of the process; but in the middle of the process keep your hands off, just butt out."

The truth is that most of our municipal governments are equipped now to handle all these problems and in fact do it. The problem is not that they are doing their job: the problem is that they are doing their job and the Ministry of Housing is doing their job too; as is the Ministry of the Environment trying to do their job too and the Ministry of Natural Resources trying to do their job too. There are about four people working on one job, three of whom have no business sticking their nose in that at that particular time.

Some sorting of the responsibilities could be done that would expedite the process somewhat, but I put these cautions on: you have to know what you want first before you start changing that, because you are messing with people's rights; and I put a second caution on that you had better carefully define what it is you are attempting to do and get a reasonably solid agreement to produce that. No government in Ontario, in my experience, has ever had the brains to do that.

I will bet that when the members of every family sit at their kitchen table, when they buy a new car or get an addition put on their house, the first thing they want to know is, "How much?" It has always puzzled me that the government of Ontario never bothers to ask: "How much will your apartments rent for? How much will your units sell for? Do you have some protection that if we put an affordable unit on the market today, speculators won't move in and drive the price of that up?"

It is easy to attack speculators in housing as being evil people. Some are and some are not. Let me try to get this on the record too. There are people from other nations who are in Toronto in particular to buy up real estate and turn it over and make a quick buck. There are others here who want to buy up real estate and who want to just simply invest in it. There are also a lot of people who come from family traditions where their family says it is a good thing to have your house and another house or a small apartment.

Clearly, again, I think the trick for government here is to get its targets right. If you believe that a speculation tax or a law that makes speculation illegal ought to be designed to destroy a family tradition of buying a house that will be available later on in life for the son or daughter, you have the wrong target in mind. If you cannot figure out that you are basically trying to get at those who are doing evil things to your housing market, if you miss that message completely, I do not know whether there is any hope for you.

But it should be obvious—it is on the record here now—that there are already people coming into Metropolitan Toronto, buying up apartment buildings and private homes on a large scale and turning them over in a very short period of time for the sole purpose of making large amounts of money, and I believe that is wrong.

I believe it is stupid, for one thing, for the government of Ontario to be working very hard to provide affordable housing for people in need and, at the same time, letting others come into its jurisdiction and destroy whatever it might do in an afternoon. That is precisely what is going on, so it seems to me to be a particularly dumb exercise not to take some defensive action against that.

If the government were to put on the market this weekend 200 houses at \$100,000 apiece, which the Toronto Home Builders Association thinks is the price of a modest home these days, and it did not do something that said, "They are \$100,000 this Saturday and I want to make sure that a month from now they haven't gone up to \$200,000," I would say that is stupidity in action if it does not protect itself in some way.

The speculators may not be from Hong Kong; they may be from Ajax. I do not care where they are from. If they are doing something that runs counter to the government's purpose, the government had better defend itself.

I am amazed sometimes at the blatant stupidity of governments and why they can never seem to come to grips with problems, in part perhaps because governments are often consumed by,

"What does the form look like?" and "How many signs can we put in front of the project announcing that the government of Ontario did this wonderful thing?" The thing that never crosses their mind is, "What are we doing here, what are we trying to do and how do we get there?"

In my view, if the government of Ontario took the same attitude as any one of us as private citizens would when we bought anything, if it said, "Well, I'd like a Cadillac but I can't afford a Cadillac, so I got a good buy on a Chevette," we would all be a lot better off. You get that by shopping around, setting out the conditions, looking at your bank account and seeing who has financing available.

If you stop to think of the potential of this government now to address a problem like housing, it has immense potential.

It cannot say land is going to bother it. It owns 90 per cent of the land in Ontario. Imagine, if you have friends in the development industry and you said to them: "I've got this little piece of property. It's just down at the bottom of Yonge Street there, right by the lake. The OPP are in there now. We're going to send those boys up to Downsview or someplace else and give you that land." These guys would go nuts. They would have the luxury condo signs up there by tomorrow morning.

The government owns what the development industry yearns for. The government has the land. What is the other thing it needs to do to build affordable housing or housing of any kind? It has to be able to finance it. In this budget, for example, the Treasurer did some good things. The government of Ontario is going to give people access—that is all; not money but access—to financing, \$2 billion worth. There is a lot of money there, and there is a potful more available, because what the government of Ontario has is borrowing power.

The government of Ontario could finance an almost endless number. I cannot tell the members the number of things that have happened in my own community, not because any money changed hands but because somebody went down to Local 222 in Oshawa on Bond Street and went into the executive committee and said: "We don't want your money. What we want is your borrowing power. Would you help us start a food co-op?" And they said, "Yes." "Would you help us start a co-op housing project?" And they said, "Yes."

A billion things have happened in that community and no money has changed hands.

What they have used is their borrowing power collectively. When we had great strikes in our community, the auto workers' credit union said, "People are not going to lose their homes during this strike." No money changed hands. Nobody lost a dime. What they used was their collective borrowing power to weather through some very tough economic times.

The government has that power. Imagine what a developer would do if government turned over to him or her the whole Planning Act. If the province of Ontario said, "There's a crisis in housing and we want to build a bunch of units by the end of this year." Never mind three to five years from now, never mind fiddling with the numbers, just said, "There's a problem here that has to be addressed now and people are dying because of it now and families are being ruined because of it now," and it wanted to do something about it. It has all that power to do it.

I really wish it would do that. I see the traditional responses of a government: "Here's a new program"—wonderful, but that is not what it is about; or, "We'll build, in the future, 50,000 units." It might just as well stand up in the House and say, "We're going to build four billion houses over the next 2,000 years." That kind of programming is irrelevant. That kind of statement and aim is irrelevant.

What is relevant is that there is a guy sleeping in the gazebo out on the front lawn who has been there for a year. There is a guy the government could something for. They should help that one and then find some more. I will line them up for them. I would be happy to escort them in here and show them who are the homeless.

1620

I know there is this argument in the community: should the government of Ontario build big things? Should the Toronto Blue Jays get a domed stadium? Why not? I could care less. Should we build an opera house? I am from Oshawa. We are big Opry fans—Hank Williams, all those guys. We go to see them all the time. The government should build the thing; but it is tough to do that if it does not first address a more immediate need.

Some guy was at the press conference down here that the homeless had. He was from New York City, and an American city is a good example of this. He said, "You know, it can really ruin your night at the opera, having to step over all those homeless people on the way in to the Met." It is true.

If you stop to think of the American experience, those of us who have visited American

cities are very often really impressed by the kind of museums, cultural facilities and grand hotels they have, but we are depressed by the notion that to get to those places you have to step over the homeless all the time. Most of us on all sides of the House would argue that is not the way we do things in Canada. We like the big, showy institution, and that is fine, but we would never say that we can have only that and we cannot provide for the homeless. That is not the Canadian way of doing things.

I hope I am not proposing a revolutionary thought here this afternoon. I am begging for some common sense. I am begging for some fair taxation. I had hoped that when this Treasurer's government got its majority, he would actually do what he talked about for so many years and make some changes in the taxation process that are fair. What I see him doing is what I have seen every Tory Treasurer I ever saw in my life do, saying: "Well, we'll help the poor. All they have to do is fill out a form and wait for a year and we'll give them a cheque from the government."

Some of the poor are going to die and will never get that cheque. Most of them will not be able to figure out where to go to fill out the form. Many of them will not be able to fill out the form even if it is handed to them. All of them have to wait until this government chooses to give them back the money. It is a phenomenon of Canadian politics. I do not understand this myself, but I will tell members the truth: every year I do my income tax, every year they send me back some of my money and every year I am grateful for it. I cannot figure out the psychology of all this. They stole my money. They used it for a year. At the end of the year they made me fill out this lousy form. I have to mail it to them and they send me back some of my money, and I am supposed to be happy.

Mr. Mahoney: With no interest.

Mr. Breaugh: With no interest. I do not understand Canadians a lot.

One of the problems that I have with the budget is the basic unfairness that is in there, put together by a man who knows better.

I rationalize it this way. Many of the friends of the government are those who are in upper-income brackets, to be as fair as I can about it. Many of them, I am sure, will look at this budget and say: "So what? People shouldn't be smoking anyway. People won't mind paying a little more sales tax here and a little more there." As long as the corporate sector does not have to take any increases—and it did not—OK.

But the people I represent have a whole different attitude on life, and maybe yesterday, on the front steps of the Legislature, the Treasurer got some sense of the anger and the frustration that is there, some sense of the anticipation that people had that he would now carry out the things that he had talked about for so long.

If this were a Tory government, if D'Arcy McKeough had presented that speech in the Legislature, we could have all said: "What else do you expect? That is who they represent. That is their priority. That is what Tories do." That is what Brian Mulroney did. That is what Michael Wilson does, and he is an honest man.

You could not find a more honest man in Canadian politics than Michael Wilson. He tells you exactly who he is and gets that message out visually, verbally, in every way conceivable, to tell you which segment of Canadian society he represents—where he worked, where he lives, whom he plays with, where he went to school, all the things that make a person distinctive. Michael Wilson tells you that.

In a very straightforward way he tells you, "I am here representing a political party that has certain vested interests behind it," as we all do, "here are what they are and that is why we do not believe in taxing corporations. We think they ought to go their merry way."

There will be winners and losers in life, and the losers should just lie down and die. People anticipate that from that kind of background, when that is the kind of background you get. They are confused, frankly, by a government that purported to be one thing and, as soon as it gets its majority, turns out to be another. That confusion is translating into anger.

Now, it is true that perhaps they will have some time to make them forget. I suppose it is true that they will now spend three or four years kind of softening them up a little bit. I suppose it is true that they will now begin to address some very real problems. I want to conclude with a little analysis of two or three of the structural problems that I think this government faces and that other governments have had to look at too.

If one has looked at health as an expenditure matter in Ontario, one does not have to be a Health critic very long before one gets a thorough knowledge that this is a lot of money and that when you look at this system, analyse it and try to figure out who is in control of this system, who is accountable for this system, who runs this system, it is pretty easy to get confused. When you ask who is in charge of the hospital's budget,

they will probably point out the chief of staff, or the administrator, or the board of the hospital, or a health council; when you look at them all, you really see that they are all in control and yet none of them are.

That is what confuses people when they say, "What about community health organizations?" The government says, "We cannot afford to do that kind of stuff." The reason it cannot afford to do that kind of stuff is that there is absolutely no restraint in the system anywhere else. When people who are at the bottom end of the economic ladder in our hospital system turn out to be people who are chronically underpaid, and at the top of the system are those who, if I may phrase it so indelicately, are chronically overpaid, the gap in the middle is—

Mr. Polsinelli: Isn't there one in the Sault?

Mr. Breagh: Somebody interjected, "Isn't there one in the Sault?" That is the problem. Yes, I could find you one of almost anything in Ontario. That is not what we are talking about. That kind of symbolism is ridiculous, and my friend knows that.

The problem that one gets at when one looks at the health care system in Ontario is some pretty undeniable truths. If the doctors leave the hospital for the weekend, and they often do, the hospital continues to run, because the people who make it run are, by and large, nurses, technicians and people who keep the place clean; they are not rewarded very well for their efforts, not in any way.

Let us talk about nurses, for example. There is now supposed to be a nursing shortage in Ontario. A couple of years ago there was supposed to be a surplus of nurses; and as I recall the government encouraged people to come up here from Texas, California and all over and help us out with this surplus of nurses. Now there is supposed to be a shortage of them.

Most of the nursing staff I have talked to do not have money as their number one beef. Their problem is that they do not believe they are getting their fair share of credit for doing things right in a hospital. They know that if the patient is dying they have to find the doctor first of all, but the first person there is the nurse and there is very little recognition for that.

When one visits hospitals a lot—I do not mean just take a stroll through the hall; I mean go there and see what happens and how it operates—one soon gets some understanding of the critical role that is played by other than medical staff in the hospital, and by that I mean other than doctors; one sees the role that people play in that.

If we want to develop different methods of providing good health care, and we do, then we first have to get hold of hospitals. How would we do that? I do not believe we do that by starting off a budget year announcing that we are not going to pick up deficits any more. In the first place, that will aggravate a lot of people, but it will not resolve any problems, because they will know that since we have had hospitals in this province, since there has been a government in Ontario, governments have let them run up deficits and have come in at the end of the year with a "Here's-the-cheque" thing.

The only occasion I can think of when a government did not do that was one year when a guy named Frank Miller decided he was going to go around Ontario and courageously, and stupidly, personally shut down hospitals. He never did. He got halfway around there and got kind of snowballed in Wingham, as I recall it, and stopped the exercise.

The government is not going to do that. It is not going to let hospital administrators run up deficits and then just say, "Have cookie sales." It is going to have to do that responsibly. If it wanted to do that, it could pinpoint a time three years from now and say: "By then, we're going to have all of your costs under some kind of control. Somebody is going to have control of that exercise and someone will be accountable, and by this date in history you either conform to this set of guidelines or you're out of business." That is going to be tough, but it is going to have to do that kind of stuff.

1630

I think the government had great challenges in front of it. I probably should not say this, but most of us had some anticipation that we would see a government that had the wherewithal to do something different. The great tragedy I see here now is not that it is doing the wrong things but that it is doing the same things. There is no difference, literally, between the previous government and this one. The longer it gets settled into power, the more comfortable it becomes with that role and the more they look like twins. That is sad.

I had some hope that this was a government, for example, which would be a little more open. I am not pretending for a moment that any government in its right mind is going to tell the whole world its innermost secrets, but I would have thought it would be a little more open about the process, that it would not reject out of hand arguments that people have worked at for a long while about appointments of people to public

positions, that it would be a little more open about information, that it would be a little more open about the role of the Legislature. Some of this will happen, I hope, in the next little while.

I want to conclude by saying this: I think the Legislature of Ontario is a great joint. I think it is a great place. I enjoy the people here and I enjoy the process here. I will say it again this year and I hope I never have to say this again: the great sadness here is the wasted potential, the talent and the ability of the people inside this chamber who are not allowed to do a job. It is such a waste. It is such a waste to say that the only reward is to the few who will make it to cabinet, and they will pretend to have power while their staff runs the joint. That is the truth.

There is a program called Yes Minister, which should be taken off the air because it is far too truthful to be exposed. That really is the way life is at Queen's Park. Ministers should understand that they cannot do everything, that a minister who has 15,000 civil servants working in his or her ministry cannot possibly know everything that is going on in there. But they had better know something. They had better figure out what their role in life is and they had better not be badgered by their bureaucrats. They have to carve out that little role for themselves.

The sad thing, and it remains as sad now as it was when I first got here, although it is a little better, is the wasted talent that comes in here and sits as members. Some get jaded and some get disgusted. Some walk away and some go back home and his wife says, "You told me going into politics was going to be great stuff and it's a lousy life." And it is, many times; it can also be a great life. But there are times when each one of them, even those, moan in the back of the limousine on the way home, when each one of them will admit: "This is not what I thought it was going to be. This is not exactly what I wanted to do."

I will conclude with this. Sadly enough, one of the worst things you see in here, and I think we see it now, is that people come into this process and they have good ideas and they have guts and determination and they want to do the right thing and they get siphoned off somehow. It happens in a way that people often are not even aware of. A little while later, they have no determination of their own any more. They just want to go with the flow. "Whatever the Premier's office wants to do today, that's what we will do. If we're disgusted with the process, we'll just get in the back of the limo and find a restaurant somewhere and we'll decide what else we could do with our lives." That is sad. It is sad to see the determination and

the energy of a great many people come in here and get thwarted.

On the good side, there are also those who come in here and who change this process just a little bit. That is really what one can do. If each one of us, as members of the Legislature, could walk away from this building whenever our careers are through and say, "Well, I didn't change the world, but I changed things just a little bit in my ministry, or at Queen's Park." Cumulatively again, as a group, we can do many things. Individually, we cannot do very much.

I want to finish this little diatribe by saying that Mel Swart is an example of what I just talked about. As someone who came here and who has—the things we share are immense—but he has an immense love for this joint, for these people, for this process, and he does it well. I was in here last Thursday afternoon when the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) was doing his budget speech and I was sitting over on the government side chatting with some folks, and I looked at him and I thought, "That's amazing: that energy, that focus, that ability and that pure enjoyment of being here as a participant, of changing things."

For those members who may not have been in government long enough yet to know, I am sure some of this group over here would be able to account to them that when the member for Welland-Thorold gets on the warpath it does not matter how many bureaucrats you have in front of you, you are going to get hurt sooner or later. It is just a matter of time until he gets you, and he knows that. He has changed the system in Ontario a lot—not as much, I am sure, as he wants to. He does not get all the things he wants. I can think of one or two little items he is still working on, but he has had an impact here, and each member who comes here can do that.

That is a big challenge for an individual. There are lots of diversions that kind of shut you down and stop your mind. Most of us get used to the idea after a while that in many places you are not supposed to think. You are certainly not supposed to speak. A number of members have approached me about the whole idea of, "Are we allowed to actually say what we think, or are we supposed to say only what the government wants us to say or what my party wants me to say?" Those who know me know that I occasionally get into hot water for saying what I think, but I do find that in the long run that is the best way. At the end of the day, everybody can be mad at me, but if I am mad at me there is real trouble. That is the distinction I would make.

That is one of the frustrations that I share about this budget. I had hoped the current Treasurer of Ontario would make a difference. I had hoped he would do it in a different way. I suppose a lot of people will talk in their speeches about the fact that they did not get all the money for schools that they thought they should have. I did not either, but I had looked for something more. I had looked for some differences, some changes.

This budget could have been presented by Darcy McKeough, very easily. It could have been put forward by any one of a number of people. The shame is that it was not. It was presented by a member who has been here for a long time, who knows better, who I think wants to do different things and he did not. He may have misjudged this.

In this kind of parliament, this is the only hope for it. The only hope for changing this budget will be if the people of Ontario say, as they said on the front steps just yesterday: "This is wrong. This is really wrong. You have gone too far, and you ought to retract some of that."

I hope they will. I believe in the democratic process as much as anybody else does around here, and there is always a chance that democracy will break out. There is always a chance that this government will actually listen to people.

But I would caution them. If they think, as some do now I guess, that they are the government, they have the power and they can do no wrong: look to Ottawa. There is your example of a government that had its huge majority. It had the most power that any government can gather together in this country, and look what has happened to them. Look at what a sad spectacle the people of Canada look at every day as they look at their federal government in action. This government is in danger of being just like them. It is a step away.

For many of them, I know this is not advice they want to hear, but I think they ought to hear it and I think they ought to heed it, just as the Treasurer did not want to hear what he heard on the front steps of the Legislature yesterday, but he needs to. That is the democratic process. That is the response.

I give him full marks. I give him full marks for going out there yesterday and facing that crowd. I know how he felt; I have faced similar crowds myself. It is not a nice feeling when a whole bunch of people yell and scream at you, but that is the interface that, theoretically, belongs in a democracy. The people who have been given the responsibility of making important political decisions like the formulation of a budget should

go right outside and face the population. It is rare to see that happen. It happened yesterday, and I think the Treasurer of Ontario got a small sample of how some people feel about his budgetary process, and they did not like it.

I am not making an argument that all people feel the same way, I know they do not; but I think he deserves, as a member who has been here for a long time and has earned, quite properly, a reputation for fairness, an opportunity to rethink some of what he did in that budget, and so do the people of Ontario.

1640

Mr. Haggerty: I was interested in the last comments of the member for Oshawa.

I think he well knows that I am a member of the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, as a number of us are here in the Ontario Legislature. We review the prebudget process in Ontario. When we talk about the Treasurer and what action has taken place, I feel, as a member of that committee—and perhaps other members have taken part in it—we may well be responsible for the tax increases.

I will just go through a list of them. This is a list of the recommendations. There was a minority report by the Conservatives, but they think on the same lines as what we have suggested here.

"Provincial funding of capital grants should be increased so that school boards can undertake renovations, modernization and new construction where necessary, and enable them to deal with the serious strains on their system." We have seen additional funding go to the school boards.

"The government should provide additional funds for the purpose of pure research in post-secondary institutions; further, capital expenditures and operating grants for Ontario's colleges and universities..." We have seen an increase of funding in this area in the new budget.

"The government should review the current municipal deficiencies in relation to the Ministry of Transportation's subsidy level with a view to significantly increasing the Ministry of Transportation budget for municipal roads." We have seen tax increases in this area. We have seen the increase in the cost of gasoline. This is earmarked to go into this area of additional funding for municipal roads.

"The provincial and federal governments should financially assist municipalities in the implementation of the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement (MISA) program as the environmental benefits resulting from this pro-

gram will extend throughout the community, the province and the nation." We have seen a 51 per cent increase in the estimates of the Ministry of the Environment this year.

"The province should pursue a trilevel financial agreement for the overall funding of infrastructure."

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member's two minutes are up.

Mr. Polsinelli: I would like to compliment the member for Oshawa on his speech. I think in his 50-minute presentation he was quite eloquent and entertaining. I must say, as all members do he quoted selectively from the budget and from those selective quotes he deduced certain assumptions and reached certain conclusions; not all were conclusions I would have reached. Obviously, I do not share all the philosophy and ideas that the member put forward.

Notwithstanding all that, I would like to say that I did enjoy listening to his speech. I do agree with a lot of the items the member pointed out. I will not say which ones I agree with and which ones I do not agree with, but all in all, it was a good speech. I enjoyed it and I compliment him.

I see that the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) in the back is yawning. I anticipate he is going to be the next speaker for the Conservative Party. I think I will enjoy listening to him too.

Mr. Beer: The comments I would like to make with respect to the honourable member's speech relate perhaps not so much to specific budgetary items but more to some of the comments he was making towards the end of his remarks that dealt with the nature of this place, the kind of debate we have and the way in which members may make contributions.

I relate my comments back some 10 years when for a number of years I served on the staff when Dr. Stuart Smith was the Leader of the Opposition. It strikes me, in coming back, that there have been a number of important changes in the way this place works which have enhanced the role of members, but we are still not there yet.

I suppose anybody in a majority situation realizes the responsibilities that individual members have in trying to find some way in which they can make more of a contribution. Certainly in the area of committees, I note a number of changes from the late 1970s to the way that committees function right now.

In thinking out loud, it seems to me that one of the things that I think would be positive and healthy is that over a period of time, we would not necessarily be shocked or surprised if a committee might, in reviewing government

policy, come in with some recommendations that were different. Indeed, to the point that this became accepted, it would not necessarily be front-page news, so that one was not always worried, "You will make the front page because your committee has recommended something that is a bit different from what is supposed to be going forward," whether we are talking about social policy, economic policy or anything of that nature. I think that would be a healthy development in the way in which this place works, because when we are listening to comments such as the honourable member has been making, one has a sense of being engaged in debate and that is one of the things we should be doing here.

Mr. Mahoney: I, too, enjoyed the speech. I was curious, though, as to whether it was a budget speech, a housing speech or a speech on social and political conscience; but there were some very valid points and I would like to address some of the issues in the housing comments.

I heard reference to the issue of affordable housing, which people have suggested we should magically define. Yet I have not heard in my time at Queen's Park or in my previous life as a municipal politician, and have yet to hear anybody come up with a real, viable definition of the term "affordable housing."

I suggest that our major problem in housing is social housing and the provision of social housing, because frankly, a single mother or a pensioner on a fixed income or a family classified as the working poor in this province, in my opinion, really do not care whether they own or rent a house. They would like to own it, but they just want to be able to afford the monthly rent. That I classify in the social housing area.

I think what this budget has done and what this government has done is shown a commitment to the best system for the delivery of social housing in the province, and it is not through using an Ontario Housing Corp. format but rather through the delivery system in place in the nonprofit sector, where you provide low-cost financing, which we are doing with the \$2-billion fund the honourable member referred to, to allow the nonprofit companies in both the public sector and the private sector to access this fund to be able to build in the nonprofit area and therefore satisfy that social housing problem.

There is a tremendous expectation in the community, they talk about building the \$99,000 house. The member is absolutely right: when they can sell one for \$200,000 and make more

money, why would they build one for \$99,000 and lose money?

Mr. Breaugh: Just briefly, to show that there is some hope in the process, the member from Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty) and I have been here, I think, about the same time and we have seen this place change immensely.

It is not what it should be at all, but it is getting there. The Treasurer and I have shared on many occasions the fact that we thought there ought to be a committee that looks at finance in a different way than we have ever looked at it before, that looks a little bit ahead of things, at what kind of expenditures and what kind of revenues they might gather and how they might do it. We have that now. It is not the most effective weapon we all thought we might get, but it is getting there. Those of us who have been around for a while know this, too. We may lose a battle or two today, but if we are around tomorrow the fight will still be on and we can continue that, and a number of us have.

I am interested in some of the other responses. I appreciate the compliments, but I will ignore them as I do the insults. It is interesting that people will search for a definition of "affordable housing." I can find a thousand definitions of affordable housing. All the government has to do is stop talking to its bureaucrats and start talking to people who need some housing. They will state precisely, to the penny, what they can afford to pay for a house or for rental accommodation and what they cannot. That should be the kind of definition-making the government gets.

I know there are those who will laugh at this idea, but try this on for size. Would it not be wonderful if, some day, a Treasurer could produce a budget and those who were members of the cabinet were bound to help him get it through the process, but every other member in here was free to say: "I think that's a good idea and that's a lousy idea; and maybe you ought to rethink this one; and I will support this bill but I won't support that one." I wonder what kind of legislative process it might be, should that be allowed to happen. It might even be called a parliament that works as a parliament.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any other member wish to participate in the debate? The member for Durham East.

1650

Mr. Cureatz: It gives me great pleasure to have the opportunity on this Thursday afternoon. Is there any place the members would rather be than right here in the parliament of Ontario, so that we may participate in the budget debate?

I too listened with great interest to my colleague the member for Oshawa. He was elected, I guess, some 18 months prior to my election. As tough as he and his association are out in Oshawa, he has generally left me alone and I have generally left him alone. We have had that kind of a rapport over the years.

He has centred in on some interesting aspects of the budget, but I want to take up on a particular issue that is deep and dear to my heart. I brought this to everyone's attention back in the throne speech debate. I got some giggles about that, and all members thought I was out of my mind. But, lo and behold, here is the member for Oshawa coming—

Mr. Mahoney: It was our first clue.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, the only one who thinks I am out of my mind is baloney from Mississauga—
Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: From where?

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: In any event, we will save the interjections.

The Acting Speaker: I remind the honourable member that he is to speak to the other honourable members by their ridings, not by their first names.

Mr. Mahoney: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Your reminding the member to address members by their ridings is quite appropriate and appreciated, but if he is going to use my name, would he please use the right one?

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order.

Mr. Cureatz: We got that all straightened around. The interesting thing is what is actually taking place here with the budget debate. Let us face it: it is a touch boring. Hands up. Who would agree with that? Let me tell the folks at home, they have all put their hands up here, because it is a little tedious and boring with this mundane process.

Let us face it. Do members think the Treasurer, who I am sure is sitting in his office this afternoon or driving in the limousine with his TV there behind the driver, is tuning me in and listening to my concerns about the budget? Do they think he is going to take full-hearted any aspect of what the member for Oshawa had to say?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The Treasurer has better taste than that.

Mr. Cureatz: No, of course not; and I can only say to the honourable member for wherever

that there is not a cabinet minister in here. That is how interested they are in this famous budgetary debate.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: Where is all the cabinet? Where is the front row?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Two points, Madam Speaker: First, the Treasurer has more taste than to tune in the member for Durham East. Second, I point out that there is indeed a cabinet minister in the House at this point: myself, as Minister of Labour.

Mr. Cureatz: I will rephrase my comments. There is not a cabinet minister of substance in the House who really is running the show around here. That goes back to the member for Oshawa's comments about the wasted talent here in this assembly.

I have said in the past, I will say now and I will say in the future that there are four people here who run the government of Ontario, and all the members know who they are. I used to refer to them as the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, taken out of the good book. But I have given them too much status, because really they are the Four Ponypeople.

When I look back over the agenda that has taken place from September 10, 1987, it is absolute chaos. I respect the fellows there. I do not know the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) that well, but certainly the Treasurer, the Premier, the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and I have had occasions to be on committees together. When I was Deputy Speaker, I listened to them whine and groan on my left over the years gone by.

But indeed I am going to refer to some of the aspects in terms of what has taken place with some of the policies. Sunday shopping: was that a good one for back home? And how about this one? The budget and the increase to eight cents. Now, come on: did the Treasurer come into caucus and say: "OK, everybody, here's what we're going to do. Don't panic. It's going up to eight cents. It'll be fine. Not to worry one bit. The people of Ontario will take to the increase in the taxes." How many phone calls did members get in their constituency offices?

Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: Five? Then there are 5,000 people out there in the member's constituency who are a little disappointed about the approach the government of Ontario has taken with regard to this budgetary increase.

I say to the honourable member—if I am going to get his name right, I will get his riding right—I say to the member for Mississauga West, who of course is new around here, that he does not appreciate that actually the budgetary debate—and I say this too for the benefit of all the people at home, whichever magic camera is on me at the moment—does not necessarily centre in on the particular aspects of the budget. And why does it not? Because the Treasurer is not going to change it anyway.

The tradition of the Legislature around here has been that the members have the opportunity of a free-wheeling discussion so that they can bring forth some thoughts and concerns that they have, not only about the budget but also about different aspects. I remind all those Liberal back-benchers that this is their time to get up and talk about their concerns in their riding so that they can photostat Hansard and send it back home and everyone can be assured that they are doing their bit.

But the reality is that they are not doing their bit, because it is the Four Ponypeople who are running the show here. When they come into caucus they strike the agenda, and all those back-benchers, because they do not know the process, stand up and say, "Aye, aye, three bags full." But there is a way to stop this, and I have told them in the past in the debate on the speech from the throne.

I am going to follow up on the comments from the member for Oshawa about wasted talent. Listen, there is great talent here in this chamber. They would not have got there if they did not have something going for them, outside of the Liberal sweep that took place on September 10. I say to the member for Scarborough Centre (Miss Nicholas) that she is going to have a tough row next time around.

Each and every member knows that is so if he is at all sensitive to politics, because with this budget there are going to be a few people who are going to be reminded, and we will do our best to remind them. During the all-candidates' debates and on the platform we are going to be saying: "Yes, well, what about the eight cents? What about the increase in the budget? How about that one?" I can tell members, there is yet hope here with this large majority government.

The member for Oshawa lambasted what is happening up in the federal government. We will see how that unfolds, and if there is an election this fall, we will see the reflection of what takes place in the people's choice. Do members know what? That is what is going to happen here when

we finally roll around in three and a half years. We will look back in hindsight to that federal election—whenever it is going to take place; possibly this fall or the spring of 1989—and then the members opposite will know what is in store for them.

But there is hope, and for those of my colleagues who are not here, I know each and every member will take copies of Hansard, like the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong), and make sure that their other colleagues on the back benches are going to take it home and read it with great interest to give them some insight and some opportunity as to how they can change the system here and have some input.

How are they going to do that? I am going to refresh their memories again. There can be one or two of them, three or four, maybe even 10—goodness, I would be happy to see four. Four of them could get together and form a little clique within the Liberal Party. They are not all going to make the cabinet; I said that in the last speech I had on the throne speech and I am going to say it again. It is impossible for all of them to make the cabinet. How is the Premier going to do it? I mean, how many has he got? He has 25 or 30 people in cabinet. How many is he going to switch the next time? Five? And those five are going to be like Ron Van Horne. They are going to resign and leave angry, not that I particularly blame them.

So the Premier replaces five; he replaces 10 at most. There are 45 of them. That means there are going to be 35 of them who are not going to be in cabinet and they might as well resign themselves to it right now. Trust me. I have been there and I know what happens. I know the government House leader. I have heard him speak. He is as smooth as silk.

"Oh, yes," he says. "Not to worry, Cindy. We're going to be looking at everyone's credentials. We're going to see how it's all going to unfold, and if you've done a good job in the House, like Steve, standing up and asking questions; or if you have done an admirable job out in the riding looking after your constituency work, we are going to put a little checkmark beside your name. Then when the next shuffle comes around, we are going to add up all the checkmarks and, lo and behold, presto, you are going to be called in the cabinet."

Let me tell members that does not happen. There is no sheet and there is no checkmark system, because the four are running the show, just like—and I hate to say it—another previous government. I do not mean the minority govern-

ment, where the New Democratic Party supported those people by the way; I mean in the times gone by, under the Conservative administration, where indeed—and that is why I know of what I speak—the then god emperor and his four or five people met Tuesday morning for breakfast and then came to caucus and told us how it was all going to happen.

Let me tell members, if I had to live it over again—there are one or two of us here who are still around from that old caucus time, and we have talked and we have said, "Boy, if we had known the system better, we would have been a little more vocal and we would have manipulated it a little better so that we could have had an impact and influence on the policies that are taking place, like the budgetary policy or Sunday shopping."

Mr. Neumann: We don't use you as a role model.

Mr. Cureatz: I say to the member for Brantford, a role model? I would like to hear about his political stand back in the 1970s. What party was he running for? Now look at him here, and he is talking to me about role models? That is how much credence I give to him about his comments.

1700

I do not bet for one moment that he went around in the last election—as a matter of fact, I do not think any of the Liberal members went around in the last election—the Liberal candidate against me did not put in his pamphlet that the government was, for instance, going to raise the sales tax to eight cents.

Which member of the government did that? For the folks at home, I am going to ask one more time. I want all the Liberals who in their pamphlets and during the campaign and in the all-candidates' debate said, "Get me elected, because we are going to raise taxes in the next budget and we are going to put the sales tax up to eight per cent," to put their hands up. Who said that? Looking around, friends at home, I do not see one person, not an iota, not a Liberal who said during the campaign that the Liberals were going to raise the sales tax.

I will tell the back-benchers opposite, they are getting it now in their riding offices and they are going to be getting it in the next election. But it goes back to my point. How are they going to have an impact, two or three of them? There are one or two already talking.

Now, let me see. The member for York East (Ms. Hart), who replaced Bob Elgie who got a nice job at the Workers' Compensation Board,

came in in the by-election and did exceedingly well. Lo and behold, she sat there very patiently, a very well educated woman, extremely bright, I want to tell the members, and she has been passed over once, she has been passed over twice and she is getting a little disgruntled around here.

She is saying: "Now, wait a minute. I've done my bit. I've served my time. I was here when I was called for during the minority-government days when we had vote after vote, and now I am still here and nothing's happening. It's a waste of time, it's a waste of my talent, in terms of my trying to have some input into the Liberal administration."

How about another person? How about the member for Etobicoke-Humber (Mr. Henderson)? I will tell the members there is a strong individual for them. He has brought forward some private members' resolutions and bills that are individual in nature. But he is flexing his concerns. There are two of the back-benchers. How about the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes)? We have not heard from him lately after he was dumped from cabinet. Unless he runs federally, I have some hope for him. So there are three. I am already going to select a committee among the Liberal back-benchers.

There is hope for the member for Durham-York (Mr. Ballinger) and the member for Mississauga West, but they are still playing the game. They are still trying to be Goody Two Shoes away in the back benches, asking the planted questions during question period. They think there is a real list that the House leader is keeping. There is no list and they are not going to figure this one out until after the next election, if they are still around here.

So the wasted talent need not be wasted. I say to the members in the back benches, two or three of them or four or five can get together and start striking their own agenda. They can strike a little chairperson of the committee—one cannot call them chairmen anyway—and when the next caucus is called, they can have their little agenda. I have thought this one through too. In case they are fighting among themselves as to who should be the chairperson of their little committee, they can just switch it around every month so they all have a chance of being chairperson of the committee.

Then, in caucus, when the front four come in and the Premier with his entourage and, no doubt, Hershell Ezrin, who really runs everything behind the scenes anyway—I cannot say anything bad about Hershell. I have to say he is a

nice individual. In the old days, when he was with the Leader of the Opposition's office, I bumped into him casually at, of all places, the water fountain and I got to know him. I did not realize he was with the opposition. He thought I was with his own team. So we got along marvellously well in the old days and we have kept up the same kind of rapport, although it is a little more distant now because, of course, I am in opposition and I have to give him and his team the devil.

In any event, with the committee structure that they can form of all the back-benchers, they can strike their own agenda. Let me ask them, do they not think for one minute that the House leader of the Liberal Party is not sweating a little bit that this might happen? His job is to quell all those people, to make sure they toe the line, to make sure they are not standing up and asking embarrassing questions, to make sure they are not putting the ministers on the spot. Do they not think he is a little worried about it? Let me tell them, he is worried silly about that.

But they can really do a cute number in here. They can set aside those great concerns they have about getting the call from the Premier and being asked to join the cabinet because, as I said, there are just too many of them. They should face it. So what can they do? As the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) has indicated, there is some great talent and they can have an influence.

Let's face it. There are 17 of us and there are 19 NDP members. We are all carrying two or three ministries, as critics, trying to do question period, trying to carry on with these kinds of debates. We cannot do the whole show. Those people can have a positive impact in here. I still have high hopes for them, that the light will dawn. We are only six months in since the election. I give them another six months.

There will be a cabinet shuffle this summer. There will be more of them disappointed, and then maybe they will be thinking: "At last, we see the light. We want to do something of a positive nature right here at Queen's Park, and with the front four who are really running everything." Enough of this all-one-team business, because let me say, when the writs drop and the election is on, it is every person for himself.

They will be running and they will be defending the eight-cent increase in the sales tax. I only mention that because that is something people can point to. We have had the increase in the personal income tax and the increase in the gas tax, but let us face it, people will forget about that. But they are not going to forget about the

Peterson bite; as they termed it back in the old days, the Frost bite.

I am going to be reminding people about that increase, because that is something they are going to be able to see day in and day out. It is going to be a sad day because, as the Liberals are canvassing door to door, knocking away, with their little pamphlet, people are going to be saying: "Wait a minute. Didn't you guys increase the taxes to eight cents? I don't remember you saying that during the last election. Now here you are, trying to get re-elected. Are you going to promise again that you're not going to raise the taxes?"

Trust me. There is hope. Back-benchers should have their select little committee so they can start putting the front bench on notice and start hammering them from the back. We are doing the best we can over here from the front. Not all those people. They are banging away liked trained seals. Let us have some backbone over there. Let us see them get right after the people who are really running the show and make them a little nervous. Make them attune to things.

I can hardly criticize the Treasurer personally. I too have known him for a good number of years and he has done me the odd favour from time to time when he was in opposition. I can only say that with a person of his stature, who has served his constituency for such a long time, it is virtually impossible for me to criticize him personally. He has stood the hours of the time of the Liberal Party in opposition, years and years with the Conservative rule, and now finally he has the opportunity.

But that is not to say I cannot give a whack or two in terms of his approach and his ideas. I can only say to him—and someone should take him a little copy of Hansard—that he should have contemplated his toes a little longer, and then maybe he would have had a better feeling of the direction in terms of how he should put forth his budget. Of course, we all really know that his success has only been because of his most charming and delightful wife, Dorothy. I can only describe her with one word, and that is a real lady. His success is in great part due to having someone like her behind him.

I know the Liberal back-benchers think I am right out to lunch, but it is going to happen. They are going to get frustrated. They should listen, and I will share a couple of things with them just to show my sincerity, that I speak from the heart.

Do they think the NDP over here are all getting along so marvellously well? I can only bring to

their attention the facts about my colleague the member for Oshawa and his concerns about the recent election. I give him credit. He said so himself; he said he speaks his mind. When the leader of the NDP said: "It was a great victory. We're in opposition," I read the member in the Oshawa Times saying: "Some victory. We dropped from 28 seats to 19. That's no victory." The member had the guts to say that.

I will ask if members think there are one or two concerns here in the Conservative caucus. Would they believe me if I said everything is fine and roses?

Mr. Neumann: No. You're in the back bench.

Mr. Cureatz: That is right. He is a little more astute than I thought. That is right. I am in the back bench.

Do members think I have not expressed one or two of my concerns about how I see the front people running the show around here? I have only to think about when I asked the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) way back when about how the Niagara Regional Police was confiscating weapons and then reselling them. I had asked some questions in the House about how maybe they should follow the same course as the Durham Regional Police and take them in to Lasco Steel and melt them. I casually mentioned that to the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves). Lo and behold, two weeks later there is a private member's bill from him stealing my idea that all police commissions should be melting confiscated weapons.

1710

Do members think we are having such a grand time over here? Well, we put on the nice front and we all say we are a happy little unified Conservative caucus, all 17 of us, including my new seatmate over here, whom we laud in her great victory over Sunday shopping in the Premier's home town. I am just trying to relate to those members my sincerity, and I am sharing these things with them so that they can appreciate that maybe they should be looking in terms of their own experiences of what is taking place with their wasted talents and get their act together and start asking the people in the front bench some serious questions on the approaches they are taking.

I will bet that on Sunday shopping there are at least 25 of them who would like to say to the Premier, "Let's turn the policy around." I will tell them, if one member did it, the Premier would start shaking in his boots, because it would be the first sign of the crack in the caucus. If one

member stood and said, "Mr. Premier, do you think you would re-evaluate your stand on Sunday shopping?" he might have a chance of getting in cabinet then, because: "Holy smokes, we've got a rebel on our hands. We'd better shut him up and put him in cabinet."

But then, to stop that, if five or six of them get together and do it in unison, they have protection in numbers. Then they are going to be making a worthwhile contribution in these chambers not only in terms of the direction the government is bringing forward with legislation but also in terms of their own constituencies. They can go back home and say to their constituents, "Never mind the diatribe we heard about what a great, fantastic budget it was, and how we've taxed the people but we're going to be spending the money." They are going to go back home and say: "Doggone it, I didn't agree with the Treasurer about the budget and the increase to eight per cent. I didn't agree with Sunday shopping."

There are one or two thoughts that I wanted to share with members about the impact of the budget. Strangely enough, my time is winding on so quickly, but I want to refresh their memory about the throne speech of 1987. We all forget about the throne speech, but let me just highlight a few little things.

Financial management: They are going to have a great financial management plan and scheme. Do members think we have seen this in the budget?

Education and literacy training: We just passed an all-party resolution brought forward by my New Democratic Party colleague about concerns that he has in terms of the lack of education instruction for the deaf. I saw nothing in terms of the budget for that.

Affordable quality housing: My colleague the member for Oshawa certainly centred in on the lack of direction and policy. I say to the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), who also is not here—and as I said, there is not a cabinet minister in these chambers who is taking responsibility about this budget whatsoever. That is how weak they are about it on this Thursday afternoon. You would think they would all be here banging away at the desks, shouting me down and saying what a fantastic budget it is.

Agriculture: Holy smokes, I wonder if members heard the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) stand up and spew forth all kinds of great and wonderful things, and he shouts so great.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: Who says there is no cabinet minister?

Mr. Cureatz: Well, I am corrected again, and I will not be so rude as to say to the folks at home there is not a minister with substance, because I am looking for one or two little assistances in my riding, so I will be a little more kind and say there is a minister with almost substance in the chamber. Does that make him feel better?

Mr. Furlong: There are two.

Mr. Cureatz: Two. Well, we notice that he did not even comment about whether he is going to allow Ontario Hydro—I am going to get to the garbage later. Do not worry; that is on the list.

This is interesting. I want to compare what has happened with some other provinces and their budgetary process. Newfoundland's 1988-89 budget—are members ready for this? Who holds power in Newfoundland? The Conservatives, did someone say? Do members know what happened with their budget? The budget contained no major tax increases. A Conservative government; see that?

Now listen to this.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cureatz: How about Nova Scotia? This is a good one. Was it held by the Progressive Conservatives? Yes, I think so. An optimistic budget was delivered. See? Two Conservative governments in provinces across Canada.

Now let us take a look at what has happened in Ontario. Wait until I get to the press clippings in Ontario about the budget that has taken place here.

But how about some other Liberal administrative governments across Canada? Prince Edward Island, the 1988-89 budget: two major revenue measures of increases.

How about New Brunswick? Wow, talk about a majority government. The Premier's first budget and the first Liberal budget in the province in 18 years was a tough budget which increased taxes and cut programs. I say to members, is that what we have seen here in Ontario with increases in taxes?

We heard the Treasurer on television. He said, "We need all this increase in money for all the programs that we're going to require funding for." Let us just take a look at all the wonderful programs, which I have had the opportunity of having some relationship with.

For instance, this is one that I think some members may have encountered. This is a nice little practical problem that we should, in terms

of private members, resolve. Some members must have had a call from people who have bought a large-ticket item and were paying the sales tax at seven per cent. They have already paid for it. The item will not be delivered until now, now that the eight per cent has come into effect, and they are going to be expected to pay the increase. Some of this is substantial.

Surely there should be some regulation passed, or the Treasurer could say that if an item was bought while under the seven per cent program, then that is all they pay. Some members must have had a phone call like that in their riding offices. Why do they not put some pressure on the Treasurer and say: "That's sort of reasonable, Bob. Why don't you come across and allow that to take place to give some relief to those people who have been caught in that situation?"

I have a letter, interestingly enough, to myself from James F. Hall from Port Perry: "As our representative, what are you doing about this Liberal ripoff of a budget? How about speaking out against it?"

I can only say to him that I am doing my best and, of course, I will indeed make sure that he gets a copy of Hansard, and along with his name, those of the other people who have expressed their concerns, such as Thelma Hall, Ernest Woods, Cameron Aldred, Beulah Woods, Garnet Woods, Lulu Ratiston, Gina Sonnermann, Laurel Hillier, Nancy Hillier and Steve Hillier. For the Hansard people, we will make sure we get all the correct spellings about that. I will inform them that we are doing our best to ensure that the Liberal administration will not get away with the increase in funding of taxes that it has done in this last budget.

Curiously enough, the member for Oshawa brought forward the aspect of the protest that took place. Funnily enough, I happened to be at the west end of the building, and I wanted to go to see a CBC program taking place. There is a newsperson, Donna Tranquada, and I wanted to see what Donna Tranquada looked like. I have heard her for the last three or four years.

Lo and behold, I walked by and there was the Toronto Sun, big van, big truck, a whole bunch of people, and I thought, "Holy smokes, this is this budget protest." Sure enough, there came the Toronto Sun columnist. He came out with all of the petitions, and by golly, the Treasurer showed up. I give credit to the Treasurer for taking the flak.

But I can remember the old days when Bette Stephenson stood right out there—and I happened to have the office right next door, as Deputy

Speaker—and the university students were hammering the heck out of her. The current Treasurer was there in the audience clapping away: "Give it to them, people. Give it to old Bette." Well, there he was, and now it is his turn to take a whack at it.

Strangely enough, the Port Perry hospital gave me a call today, and it has a deficit of \$127,000. It has yet to have any kind of response from the Ministry of Health, and here we keep hearing the aspect of the budget and how we had to have the increase in taxes. I know the member for Durham-York would appreciate this, because no doubt one or two of his constituents have to use the Port Perry hospital.

They are getting nowhere with the civil service. I am going to have a meeting with them next week. We are going to start working our way up the ladder, and it is going to be interesting if we have any input from the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) about the working expenses at the Port Perry hospital. I hope we have a little more success, I say with all due reverence to the member for Durham Centre, than the honourable member had in terms of some the problems he is having with his hospital there.

I hope she is not going to play some cute political games that she has pulled off with me, as I reprimanded the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) coming out to my riding, cute as a little teddy bear. "Here I am everybody, and I am looking at generating stations." The courteous thing, of course, is to include the sitting member, notwithstanding that he is in opposition, because a station of that magnitude, \$12 billion, has a huge impact on the community and on other communities.

Does the minister give the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner) a call when he goes to visit Durham West? I somehow think he does, and I am awfully disappointed that he did not give me a call, because we are all serving the people of Ontario. That kind of station has a huge impact on commerce and employment. When we have strikes, people are angry at him, now that he is the Minister of Energy.

1720

Listen, we can work along together on some of these aspects, but I do not find it so conducive to do so if he thinks he is going to play cute political games, like the Minister of Health, who, when we had an anniversary for the Bowmanville Memorial Hospital—I think it was 60 years; I just forget for the moment—on the night of the anniversary, there is the chairperson of the hospital committee standing up and saying, "Oh, by the way, I just received a letter this afternoon

from the Minister of Health announcing that, through the good offices of the former Liberal candidate during the last election and the Durham region”—

[Applause]

Mr. Cureatz: Is that how you people want to play politics? Are you playing with people's lives by playing politics in members' communities and doling out money in their own ridings and when there is an opposition member? Well, that is great, because when I am on the campaign trail the next time around, I am going to be reminding people of the kind of politics the Liberals play in terms of handing out money for health purposes, and they are using it for political purposes only. Lo and behold, she continued by saying, "And we just thank the Liberal candidate very much for trying to get and getting this \$8-million grant for us."

I was working on that thing for nine years in my community. I went through a number of Health ministers. We had the approval for \$6 million, but under minority government they did not come forward with the approval for two years, because they were playing political games too and they were being very cautious. They did not want to give an opposition member \$6 million for a hospital.

The heat was finally on them because the hospital had to be expanded, so it increased from \$6 million to \$8 million and, lo and behold, they had to try to weasel out of it by giving credit to the Liberal candidate. I will tell members, that was a pretty shoddy business. I was disappointed in the Minister of Health and I told her so the next day. "Well," she said, "we would have told you about the announcement but, unfortunately, you just did not get it in time." That is not good enough.

I heard all the Liberal oldtimers year after year when they were on this side complain about the same thing, and I said to myself as I sat in the back bench, way over there: "If I were ever in cabinet, I would not pull a sleazy trick like that. I would make sure that I would include the member, no matter who it was." You would think that, after all those years of complaining, they would have learned. But not now. Now that they are in power, as the member for Oshawa has said, it is a different ball game and they are just going the same old traditional political route that many political parties have taken when they have had large majority governments.

Interestingly enough, we could centre in on plaques. My good friend and colleague the member for Wellington was concerned about plaques. When I saw the new plaque, I shook my

head. Hershell maybe could convince me otherwise, but I will tell members, it looks like a great Liberal plot. Have members seen the new plaques? First of all, they do not even stand up the right way. When you put the Premier's letter in and you try to stand it up, the Premier's letter is on its side; you cannot even read it anyway. Who designed the thing? We get awfully suspicious with the flowing letters and everything from Queen's Park and "Yours truly, the Premier of Ontario." You can slip your card in the other envelope, but when you turn it backwards, of course, the member's card does not show up. I have been told, I say to the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton), that there have been one or two members who slipped the Premier's letter out and typed in their own name and underlined it to make sure that those people having the celebration knew at least who the local member was.

How about the great money grab that has taken place under the budget, and where is it being spent? It is not being spent in courts in Durham: "Court Delays Tragic Result of Underfunding, Local Lawyers in Durham Tell Nixon." We still have the problem there. The member for Oshawa will tell members that we have got a delay of up to a year and a half to two years in setting trial dates, and it does not look any better.

How about this one, which was brought up in the House in terms of what is taking place with hospitals? I mentioned Port Perry. We had in the Oshawa Times: "Turned Away by Metro Hospital, Bowmanville Woman Has to Fly to Kingston to Have Her Triplets." In today's day and age, with helicopters and the access that we have to the finest hospitals in the world—

Interjection.

Mr. Cureatz: Oh, no; I have to get to the garbage problem yet, and then I will call time.

Even I was surprised, I who have seen a lot of things around here, to think they had to fly her to Kingston to have the baby. Boy!

Let's get to it: the garbage issue. This is going to be interesting, I say to the member for Durham West (Mrs. Stoner), because, of course, this is going to affect her or me. It might affect the member for Durham Centre. We will refresh all their memories. Actually, I want to change speed here for a moment. I want to talk about the Ganaraska Region Conservation Authority. I will finish off with the garbage.

The Ganaraska conservation authority owns 10,000 acres of land in my constituency of Durham East and that of the member for Northumberland (Mrs. Fawcett). Strangely en-

ough, the authority, under F. G. Houston, the chairperson, has come forward with a great policy that it is going to open up the forest to all-terrain vehicles and motorbikes.

I made a presentation to the authority about two months ago. I said to them: "That is all very well and good, but you are moving too fast. Why do you not strike a policy first? Why do you not send a letter to me? I will approach the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio). We will strike a consultation committee. We will look around Ontario, Canada, North America and the United States to see what other conservation authorities have done about having all-terrain vehicles in their forests."

Do members know what? They said, "No, we are going to go marching merrily on our way with these all-terrain vehicles in the forest." I respect that opinion. I made my pitch. I did not say I was against the vehicles or for them. I said, "You and the authority are moving too fast."

Lo and behold, now we do have a particular problem, which points out the lack of policy and direction for the authority. Now, with the opening up of the forest, we have people going in there and setting large bonfires. I will say up front, strangely enough, that now that I have moved, I am a neighbour of the forest. I have not particularly singled out the motorbikes, because I wanted to be neutral, but now this is a policy issue that affects all the people in my riding of Durham East and in the riding of Northumberland. They are setting large bonfires in the forest on weekends, throwing tires on these fires and having a great time. That is all well and good, but what about the possibility of forest fires?

I phoned the police department because I had a meeting of angry constituents a week ago Saturday. The police came out right away. The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) will appreciate this, because I have here under Ganaraska—here it is; I will bring it up in a minute—the police came out and said: "No, it is not our authority. We cannot do anything about the fires in the forest."

That is fine. So I phoned up the district manager in the Ministry of Natural Resources. He got back to me a week later and said: "Actually, it is not my authority, either. I cannot do anything about the bonfires in the forest. You really have to go to the Ganaraska authority."

I have already contacted the Ganaraska authority, and it has told me that it has no policy about how to light fires in the forest. They have no fire equipment to combat forest fires, and they rely for everything on the local municipality. I am

telling the members that if this is the kind of policy and direction the authority has with regard to fires being set in the forest, it is very dismal.

We are going to see repercussions about the policy they have instituted with regard to all-terrain vehicles in the forest. I am going to send a copy of this Hansard to each and every member of the authority and say: "It is about time you get your act together. I went to bat for you people on the authority." They complained about channelization for the Ganaraska River through the town of Port Hope. I went down there. Russell Rowe was then the Speaker and the member. I supported him. We had to do away with some funding for my own riding for Ganaraska, but it was important to fix up the town of Port Hope and stop the flooding.

Then F. G. Houston, the chairman, came to me about four or five years ago. The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) was then the Minister of Natural Resources. He said: "We really need a new building. We have to get all our staff together. It is important to run the forest so that we can administer it properly." I said: "That seems reasonable to me. Let's get a building." The building was not even going to be in my riding. It is in the riding of the member for Northumberland, right in Port Hope, right off Highway 401. It is a nice fancy building. All the staff can be in there. They have all the conservation authority meetings there.

By the way, the Ministry of Natural Resources has told me that hardly any of the authority members even tour through the forest so that they can make an objective opinion in terms of what is taking place in there.

They got their building. Terrific. Now I have come to them and said: "Listen folks, why do you not ask for some money to do a proper study in the forest so that you can get your act together? If you are going to have all-terrain vehicles, maybe they are going to have to be in one section and you will have to have the horse riders in another section and people who are cross-country skiing or out for a walk will be in another section." No, not for them. They would not listen to me one iota after they came begging to me twice.

I have a long memory and I say to that authority, as the member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and Harry Worton used to say over here when the Tories were in power, "It is a long road that has no curves." I say the same thing to them. There will come a time indeed when there will be something else that is taking place, and they are going to need the assistance of myself in some manner. I am going to say to

them, "I don't remember the co-operation you gave me when I suggested having a consultative process for the forest."

1730

The last topic—I have been getting the wave here, the hook, from the whip of the Liberal Party—is garbage. Let me say it is going to be an interesting topic for all of us across Ontario. Metro Toronto: the Brock West landfill site is filling up and to my colleague, the Liberal member for Durham West, rapidly, within a year and a half or two years, Metro is casting its eyes about Ontario as to where it is going to put the garbage.

Now, strangely enough, Metro has sort of looked at three sites in my riding of Durham East, two along Lake Ontario, if members can believe it; one beside the Darlington Provincial Park. Wait till I get after the Minister of Natural Resources if he is going to approve the placement of a large landfill site beside a provincial park, not to mention on Lake Ontario.

Holy smokes, that reminds me of the time they had, out of the state of New York, a barge going up and down the intercoastal waterway trying to get rid of the garbage. Now we are going to be placing it on the shores of Lake Ontario. I suppose the next step is putting it on a barge and going up and down the north shore of Lake Ontario trying to decide what to do with it.

Not to mention, I say to the member for Oshawa, that it should come close to his home, that indeed, General Motors of Canada's main headquarters is going to be right beside the garbage, a landfill site. It is going to be great to have the President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario—I have a nice clipping from him, when he clandestinely visited General Motors of Canada and avoided a picket line. It is going to be interesting to have him come to the opening of the General Motors of Canada site with the landfill site next door and all the sea-gulls flapping their wings around. I have a sneaking suspicion it is not going to go beside General Motors of Canada's head office.

There is another site along Lake Ontario at the Bennett Sideroad. It boggles the imagination to think that they would even consider putting a landfill site on the shores of Lake Ontario.

A third site that some people have suggested is at present a small dump site in the Newcastle area. There is an outfit called Laidlaw Waste Systems which owns it and it is trying, through the environmental process, to expand the site. There is a group of concerned people gathered

together to try to stop the site. The interesting thing about the group of concerned people is that they have been approached by another group called PACT, Pickering-Ajax Committee Against Trash. Am I close?

Mrs. Stoner: Pickering-Ajax Citizens Together.

Mr. Cureatz: Pickering-Ajax Citizens Together. They have approached the Clarke-Newcastle group and said, "You know, why don't you give us support to be against this dump?" I say to the member for Durham West that I am a little suspicious, because I have a funny feeling that Metro wants the dump in Durham West, somewhere in Pickering or North Pickering. They do not want to be lugging it all the way down to Newcastle, not to mention the fact that Metro has already gone to Kingston township looking for a landfill site down there. It is my understanding it was such a sweetheart deal for the township that it almost took it, but the township council did not want to take the flak of having garbage from Metro going all the way out to Kingston.

Well, I am a little suspicious that the PACT organization is trying to broaden the net to see if it can indeed convince Metro that there are other sites besides Pickering to be looking at. "Why don't you look out to Newcastle? See, there's another group out there. There're other areas across the region of Durham." I say to the member for Durham West that we are going to be at some interesting loggerheads in terms of Metro looking for the landfill site, and I do not know if I am going to be too sympathetic in terms of the organization out in her riding who are saying to Metro, "Why don't you look further east?" If they are looking east, I am going to be saying: "Well, Metro, you really want it in Pickering. You want it nice and close, don't you, Metro?"

We have heard about the Minister of the Environment. He gets up and boy, he can talk a line. He reminds me of Jimmy Auld in the old days. You could not nail jelly to the wall, the way Jimmy spoke. Another Jimmy, Jim Bradley, has the same kind of method. I have great respect for the Minister of the Environment. Oh, he was nasty when he was in the front bench and the second bench and the third bench. Members should have heard him give the devil to Bill Davis over the Challenger jet, day in and day out. We all got sick of it, but I will say he was a tough opposition member.

But you know what? He is talking a good line here, he really is, but I do not see any formative policy yet. I am saying that the Liberal adminis-

tration, the minister, should take some initiative in terms of landfill sites. We had the liquid-waste disposal problem, and it might have been that the former member for Lincoln, the Conservative member, took the repercussions of having the plant down in his riding. He might have lost the riding to our future Minister of Agriculture and Food here. Who is to say? But it is going to be up to the Ontario government to take a look at the landfill-site problem and to see what other people are doing with the initiatives.

I have some documentation from other authorities, organizations and companies that have indicated the landfill site can be looked at seriously by reducing the volume of material that is going into the site.

There is a company from Guelph. At the moment, I cannot put my hands on what some of its proposals are. I do have it right here. I will give them the plug because they approached me when they saw I had some concerns about landfill sites; it is Delegated Marketing Corp. They are out of west Downsview, but I think the organization is out of Guelph. They are talking about reducing the amount of volume to landfill sites by a quarter to maybe a 10th. I have not heard a thing from the Minister of the Environment about that aspect.

Do members think we are going to have problems with landfill sites? We sure are because, strangely enough, I have been speaking to another organization. I am getting all kinds of interesting calls about landfill sites—this will be interesting—from the area of Prince Edward-Lennox. There is an organization down there that has been very concerned about a dump of 40 acres that was owned by the Sutcliffe family who got a rezoning, and now it is owned by Tricil or Trimac and C-I-L. It is in lot 2, concession 4, Richmond township. It is presently 40 acres with a potential of 350 acres; they are not sure it will be developed to that degree. The land will be dug down 25 feet deep, with five huge hills.

The dump was supposed to cover the four counties in the area. Apparently, it is now supposed to take garbage from across the province. There have been concerns. After every day has gone by with the filling up of garbage, there is supposed to be six inches of dirt spread over the garbage. That has not always necessarily been done. There has been an infestation of rats and seagulls.

A farmer three miles away had all his tomatoes eaten by the seagulls because they ran out of food at the garbage dump. Another constituent, by the

name of George McKnight, who is a mile away, has had to set out rat poison for the rats.

According to my contact, the Ministry of the Environment said there was no rat infestation of a home beside the dump. There was not an environmental assessment hearing, but sort of a community hearing about the dump. The lady who was in the home went back and indicated the rats had chewed through the kitchen cupboards and had strewn the tea towels out on the front lawn. The Ministry of the Environment came back and said, "By golly, you know, you're right; there are rats."

I will tell you, friends across Ontario, we are not finished with the landfill site problem.

I have great admiration for my friend and colleague the member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham). He has been involved in politics at the municipal level for a great long time. He has the same kind of concerns. I can say to him maybe he should be one of the four or five people of that Liberal committee to start putting some pressure on the Minister of the Environment so that we could have a collective policy in terms of landfill sites.

Well, lo and behold, I know I have spoken too long. There are some other great issues that I would have loved the opportunity of expressing my thoughts and concerns on, but with those few remarks, Mr. Speaker, we thank you very much.

Mr. Tatham: It is a privilege to speak to this assembly. I want to talk about three things: courage, compassion and common sense. These are the ideals exemplified in the words and actions of our Treasurer.

We all know the demands for funds are great. We all want quality health care, quality education facilities, affordable housing and attention to the environment. We all want all those things that make living in Ontario so special.

I believe our friend the Treasurer has endeavoured to balance the demand for service with the ability to pay for this. This is a courageous, compassionate and sensible budget.

These traits could also be used to describe the good people of Oxford county. It is my privilege to represent the citizens of the riding of Oxford. I would like to tell the members about this special corner of good Ontario life and acquaint the members with its citizens' courage, compassion and diligence.

For many years, from 1872 to 1896, Oxford North was represented by Sir Oliver Mowat, the Premier of Ontario. Andrew Pattullo, the first president of the Ontario Good Roads Association, succeeded Sir Oliver Mowat as the representative from Oxford North.

1740

I want to tell members about an interesting election that took place on June 29, 1914, when Victor Sinclair was elected the member for Oxford South by a one-vote majority. Elections like that prove the old adage that every vote counts.

The Oxford riding includes seven of our eight municipalities in the county of Oxford. The eighth municipality, Tillsonburg, is capably represented by the member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller). Our riding is in the Great Lakes basin and the Grand Trunk corridor, the main line of Canadian National Railways and the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Highways 401, 403 and 2 are part of the Oxford scene. Hydro transmission lines, gas lines and oil pipelines traverse our riding.

Perhaps members will, for a few moments, let me take them around our county of Oxford.

Woodstock, with 27,000 people, the city beautiful, founded by Admiral Henry Vansittart in 1834, has great streetscapes and lovely old buildings. Probably one of the prettiest streets in Canada is Vansittart Avenue in Woodstock.

Canadian tradition is evident in the area's heritage buildings and also in a rather special tribute to another important founder. In honour of the founder of our important dairy industry, we have a monument to a cow, unveiled August 4, 1937: Springbank's Show Countess, world butterfat champion. Her owner, Tom Dent, hand-milked this cow four times a day for two years, three times a day thereafter, for the record. Tom was a former Deputy Speaker of the Legislature. He was followed in the House by a world-class Holstein breeder and judge, a good friend of mine, Gordon "Sparky" Innes.

You can see and taste Oxford county's attributes. The Tavistock Cheese Co., now owned by McCain's, sells all the cheese it can make. It takes 10 pounds of milk for one pound of cheese.

By the way, we are the dairy capital of Canada. We have over 31,000 dairy cows, and our black-and-white show is held Thursday night during Woodstock's fair week and has visitors from across Ontario, Quebec and the northern United States.

We spread our wealth worldwide. Our western Ontario breeders' unit has an excellent stable of bulls. Bull semen is collected, refrigerated and packaged to be shipped to 32 different countries of the world, thus providing good breeding to animals in countries that benefit from quality breeding.

Mr. Wildman: They want to spread the bull around.

Mr. Tatham: A little bull goes a long way.

There are other monuments that reflect the nature of industry in resource-rich Oxford. The next time members look at the CN tower, they should recognize the fact that 75 per cent of the cement came from the Canada Cement plant in Oxford. This cement plant has shipped over 13 million tonnes of cement in the last 30 years.

The cement and lime industry is an energy-intensive business. At the present time, Canada Cement spends over \$3.5 million annually on energy. Canada Cement has a continuing program to reduce its energy costs. A dry plant consumes approximately 3,000 megajoules per tonne, and wet plants consume approximately 5,000 megajoules per tonne. Canada Cement is a wet plant. At the present time, it is converting, where possible, from manual controls to multi-functional programmable controls that will start up sequentially. It also has a control system in its laboratory, because in the final analysis the lab test must be up to scratch to allow the cement to be shipped.

Another primary industry, in the township of Zorra, is the lime industry. The steel companies in Hamilton and Nanticoke get their high-calcium lime products from the valley area. The fuel bill annually for one of Oxford's lime plants is in excess of \$10 million. We have three lime plants and two cement plants in the Beachville area. There is a 100-foot face of 98 per cent pure calcium carbonate—that is limestone—in the steel-company quarry. Beachville is called the lime capital of Canada.

I could go on and tell members about the huge General Motors-Suzuki plant in Ingersoll. That is over a \$500-million investment and it is expected they will hire 2,000 employees and manufacture 200,000 units a year.

I could go on. I would like to tell members about Charlie Shelton in southwest Oxford who won the Oxford County landsaver award. Fifty years ago, there were many 100-acre farms and some 50-acre farms. Today, we have a number of farmers operating from 200 to 1,000 acres of land. Charlie Shelton operates 1,000 acres of land, and he has one 200-acre field of rolling land. Up to 12 years ago he was losing productive topsoil off his field. Charlie changed his methods of soil management, and today he is one of Canada's leading soil conservationists.

Our natural wealth is not without its challenges and difficulties. We have some of the best land in Canada, enough moisture, frost-free days and

excellent farmers. We produce food, but we also produce soil erosion. A position statement of the Ontario chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America in July 1983, page 9, said, "When soil erosion costs were calculated on the basis of losses per row of crop-land hectare, the counties of Brant, Oxford, Elgin, Middlesex and Waterloo had the highest erosion damages, with values ranging from \$45 to \$63 per row of crop-land hectare."

Our response has been based on good old common sense. It has taken some courage of our convictions and compassion for our precious environment. We call our response the land stewardship program. It just makes good sense. Its purpose is to encourage the adoption of proper approaches to land stewardship which will improve and protect soil and water resources.

The program consists of four sections: soil structure, erosion control structure, conservation equipment and conservation technology. Other items dear to my heart are the reforestation of fragile lands, encouraging long-term commitment to agriforestry, diversifying crop production, shelter belts, windbreaks and planting under five acres of intercropping, which are good for the land.

The Ontario government has been very supportive of the agricultural community. Budgetary spending by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food will reach \$567 million, an increase of 86 per cent since 1984-1985. For 1988-89 the government has allocated an additional \$50 million to stabilization programs for a number of commodities currently covered by separate federal and provincial arrangements.

Over the next two years, tripartite programs will be put in Ontario, with the exception of what is covered by formal marketing arrangements. First-year funding will also be provided for two government commitments, the Ontario Farm-Start program, which provides cash grants to assist farmers entering the industry, and Food Systems 2002, designed to assist farmers in reducing the use of pesticides by 50 per cent over the next 15 years.

We have hard-working, industrious people living in our county, but we have to keep up with technology and we have to do a better job. We must pay attention to the new innovations in science. The increase in competition is based, in part, on deregulation and globalization. We must sharpen our decision-making skills and take difficult and sometimes painful actions to broaden our approaches to compete effectively.

Again, the government has been responsive to this need. I think the Premier's Council, with a mandate to steer Ontario into the forefront of economic leadership and technological innovation, makes sense. We have to come of age.

Several years ago, an American statistician, Dr. Edward Deming, after a tour of Japanese manufacturing facilities, commented that our idea of quality control in North America is like burning toast and scraping it. That is changing. Ontario is rising to the challenges of competitive forces. The people of Oxford are doing their bit to respond effectively.

I would like to invite the members to come to Oxford to see high tech working for nine municipalities that are working together. We have an investment of over \$700,000 in hardware, software and training for land-related information systems. Two weeks ago we had people here from Qatar, in the Persian Gulf.

As past warden of Oxford county for three years, and with other wardens before me, I watched our county population of 85,000 spend over \$2 million in 11 years before we achieved a safe landfill site. I remember in March 1983 writing the Minister of Municipal Affairs, Claude Bennett, suggesting that we had to find a pass through the environmental mountains to the shore of reason and the sea of results. Of course, if we all looked into a mirror like Pogo, "I have seen the enemy, and he is us."

Our Treasurer had to look at the needs and demands of today as well as the requirements that will lead to opportunities for Ontario's future. Courage, compassion and common sense are admirable ideals that can be difficult to accept when they are applied to a very necessary plan of action.

I believe the good people of Oxford want Ontario's competitive position strengthened through investments in manufacturing and research and development. The good people of Ontario, I believe, accept and applaud the government's priorities for quality health care, excellence in education, more affordable housing and economic assistance for those in need.

The budget has to ensure we can pay for today's services and have money for tomorrow's needs. There has to be a balance of revenue and expenditures. If I have learned anything during my brief time at Queen's Park it is that, as Bismarck said way back in the second half of the 19th century, politics is the constant pursuit of the attainable, of the possible.

For the most part, the people of Oxford agree with me that politics is a worthwhile process. It is

a rational process in the same way that it is a rational person who decides where to strike a balance between what is desirable and what can be done. As far as I am concerned, that, in a nutshell, defines life at Queen's Park: a balance of what is desired and what can be done.

Mr. Wildman: Did you say it was rational around here?

Mr. Tatham: I want to talk about that balance. We all strive for balance in our lives. For those who attain it, there is the compliment that he or she is a well balanced person. Farmers and gardeners know all about the balance of nature. I was reading through some material developed by a college of agriculture down in Kentucky, and the word that keeps appearing was "balance." One of the pamphlets was on stress management for farmers. The recommendations are applicable to all of us.

- 1. Eat balanced meals.
- 2. Think positive thoughts.
- 3. Balance your work and your play.

The balance of nature is perhaps even more fragile than the balance in human nature. The people of Oxford county have grown up understanding the fragility of that balance. The Treasurer of Ontario turned a tough balancing act into a courageous, compassionate course of action. It took vision to accomplish the task. Others before him have shared the task.

I think of the words of vision eloquently voiced many years ago by Chief Seattle for whom the beautiful city was named. He expressed it this way: "Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of earth. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself. We must care. We must not steal from our children. We build our community with dreams, dreams for our children and those yet to be, a world with

respect for one another and a civility blessed by reason."

This budget reflects the task of vision, the need for a balance and this budget works towards that goal.

On motion by Mr. Reycraft, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: Is there some information for the members on House business for next week?

Mr. Offer: We are a well-oiled machine.

Mr. Breagh: You are a well-oiled oil, that is what you are.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Could I have a little order, Mr. Speaker? I have never been acting House leader before.

Mr. Speaker: Try it.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 9, we will continue the debate on the budget motion. On Tuesday, May 10, and Wednesday, May 11, we will consider, as time permits, second reading of the following legislation: Bill 125, trustee representation; Bill 116, northern heritage fund; and Bill 108, rental housing.

On Thursday, May 12, in the morning, we will deal with private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) and the member for Kenora (Mr. Miclash). In the afternoon we will consider government notice of motion 10, followed by the supply bill to be introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

The House adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
57	3074	2	33	who are receiving benefits--
57	3075	1	17	doing our best--

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)

Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
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Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
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Publications

No. 59

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Monday, May 9, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 9, 1988

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

FILM PREMIÈRE

Ms. Bryden: I would like to draw to the Legislature's attention the première of a National Film Board production entitled *Mr. Nobody*, which will be shown on Sunday, May 15, at 2 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema at 506 Bloor Street West. Admission is free.

This film is a real-life documentary about Jack Huggins, a 66-year-old senior who lives in my riding. It is pure cinema vérité and is must viewing for anyone interested in the welfare of the elderly who live alone.

In the film, Mr. Huggins describes his encounters with various community workers and his neighbours after they complain to the public health department about his housing and life-style. All he wanted was to be allowed to manage his own affairs.

While the community workers who intervened were undoubtedly well-meaning, the film warns us that the feelings of their clients must be understood. More funding for support services in the home is essential to enable the community workers to do this and to deal with the situation described.

I hope the film will be seen by many and that it will be urged that it be shown in the regular commercial film houses; then the message will get across.

NURSING SERVICES

Mr. Eves: It gives me pleasure to rise and make a statement not only about Nurses' Week, but also, more important I suppose, the critical shortage of nurses throughout Ontario.

If we just look at the events of the past few months, such as the newborn critically ill child being flown from Toronto to a Buffalo hospital to receive proper treatment, two Ottawa hospitals being compelled to close their emergency departments to all but life-threatening cases and Toronto-area hospitals being forced to transfer 24 women with high-risk pregnancies to specialized facilities in other parts of this province and

other provinces; when we look at the revelation in the last couple of weeks about cardiovascular surgery cases, the number of people on the waiting list and the length of time it takes to receive open-heart surgery in the province of Ontario; we can relate all those, directly or indirectly, to the nursing shortage within Ontario and the failure of our health care system.

The Ontario Medical Association has had to take it upon itself to commission a poll by Goldfarb, as we all know, and the results do not bode well for Ontario's health care system. Some of the findings are that nurses spend, on average, 30 per cent of their working time performing non-nursing duties. Nurses are increasingly frustrated working in a system that prevents them from delivering quality care. The result of this frustration, for one part, is that one nurse in seven across the province is planning to leave the profession.

I think these frustrations are chronic and severe and the problem should be dealt with immediately by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

Mr. Keyes: I wish to draw members' attention today to the fact that this is Nurses' Week across Canada. It is a week when we salute our largest health care profession and celebrate the great variety of roles that nurses play in patient care.

The theme this year is "Nursing, a Tradition of Caring." Those words, I think, capture the essence of the nurses' contribution. Today in nursing, as in other disciplines, we live in an age of specialization. We have perinatal nurses, operating room nurses, psychiatric nurses, public health nurses, occupational nurses, visiting nurses and many others, but whatever the technical skills involved the common denominator is the human element of caring.

In order to meet the demand for nursing services here in Ontario, last year the Ministry of Colleges and Universities expanded enrolment in nursing diploma programs by seven per cent. I am delighted to report that young people across this province continue to enter the profession in record numbers, despite the doomsayers on the opposite side.

At the same time, we recognize that a number of career challenges are now facing the nursing

profession, challenges related to education, specialization and staffing concerns in some hospitals.

DOW CHEMICAL LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I hope the government recognizes the current lockout in Sarnia at Dow Chemical, part of the Midland Corp. of the United States, as a prime example of labour relations gone astray in the province of Ontario.

The 740 workers, members of the Energy and Chemical Workers Local 672, are seeing their work performed by scabs brought in from as far away as Alberta and Quebec. The plant manager, in from the US on a visa permit, boasts of his success in defeating the union in several strikes in the United States. The company has cameras on large construction booms at the gates which start to roll only when the scabs are going through the line or when trucks go in or out of the plant, often empty, in an attempt to provoke the workers on this well-disciplined picket line.

In addition, long delays, usually company-inspired, in handling a crucial grievance for the revamp workers have meant months have gone by without settling an issue that is really at the core of this particular strike at Dow Chemical in Sarnia.

What is going on on the picket lines at Dow Chemical and what the workers themselves are carefully trying to resist is a deliberate and calculated attempt by American owners to break that union and break that strike. Some of the tactics are not pretty; the use of scabs is not pretty. This government should be taking a look at the legislation we have to protect workers in such a lockout situation.

WHEEL-TRANS LABOUR DISPUTE

Mrs. Marland: While I am very happy that the Wheel-Trans workers are back at work this morning, I do not believe the real problem regarding transportation services for the disabled community here in Metro and across this province has been solved.

While the media and many of the public view the Wheel-Trans strike as a Metro issue, this was not the case. Disabled persons in neighbouring Peel were also affected. Transhelp riders in Peel were unable to go to Toronto because their connecting Wheel-Trans service was not available.

1340

I must also say that I am extremely disappointed in the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini). The Liberal

government viewed the Wheel-Trans strike as a simple labour problem, but it was much more than a labour problem. It involved real people and real hardship, and the applause that I heard a couple of moments ago had nothing to do with the solution to this problem. Where was the minister for the disabled during this crisis? Nowhere to be seen; not one statement, not one word of hope or encouragement.

I think the minister owes the disabled community an apology and legislation that would deem transportation for the disabled to be an essential service. We must not allow the disabled people in this province to be used as pawns ever again, and deeming this service as an essential service is the very least that the minister responsible for the disabled in this province can do.

ALBERT FISH

Mr. Matrondola: In May 1986 in Taipei, Taiwan, Albert Fish of Guelph was elected the president of Fiabci, the International Real Estate Federation. He formally took office in Copenhagen last May. His term of office will expire at the closing of the 1988 Fiabci world congress, May 27, in Melbourne, Australia.

Fiabci, the Fédération internationale association biens et conseil immobilières, is a worldwide organization of real estate professionals with members in some 45 countries, as well as having two standing members at the United Nations in Geneva and New York.

Mr. Fish is the 38th world president of Fiabci, the first from Ontario and the second one from Canada. He has travelled throughout the world as an ambassador of goodwill, fostering good relationships between Canada and the rest of the world.

Having served myself on a number of Fiabci international committees and as a member of the board of directors, as well as president of the commercial subdivision of Fiabci, I can attest to the fine job that Mr. Fish has done. The member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro), who also knows Mr. Fish very well, will echo my statements. I am sure all members here would like to join me in commending and thanking Mr. Fish for having freely and generously donated many years of his life to the real estate profession, promoting shelter for everyone, as well as private property rights, locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Welland-Thorold, for 35 seconds.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Swart: Last week, my leader referred to a letter which I had received from a patient in the

Welland County General Hospital, describing the conditions under which the patients there were suffering with regard to sanitation in the emergency area—one washroom for 20 patients—and a great number of other conditions that people in a hospital should not be subjected to. I do not have time to read that letter. I will content myself with sending it to the the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), but I want to say that this is the kind of hospital care that this government not only condones and permits but in fact provides.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO-QUEBEC TOURISM MARKETING AGREEMENT

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Today I am pleased to inform the House that last Friday in Canada's capital region, I co-signed the Ontario-Quebec tourism marketing agreement with Quebec Minister of Tourism Michel Gratton. Under this agreement, our two great provinces will be marketed as a combined destination in targeted overseas markets until the end of March 1990. Initially, we are concentrating on Japan and the United Kingdom.

Japan is already Ontario's fastest-growing international market, with 189,000 travellers last year, an increase of 55 per cent over 1986. With the Japanese government promoting foreign travel to cut its balance-of-payments surplus, the future looks even brighter. In Japan, we are promoting the Maple Route to encourage Japanese travellers to visit attractions in Ontario and Quebec.

We also see opportunities to encourage British travellers who have come to visit friends and relatives to do more touring in Ontario and Quebec. In 1986, a total of 349,000 travellers came from the United Kingdom, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year.

The program features a new marketing theme, "Ontario-Quebec...Old World...New World...Our World," to promote travel opportunities to both our provinces.

Partnership with the travel trade is a key feature of our new program. We are delighted that Air Canada is participating this year as a full cost-sharing partner in the United Kingdom campaign. We intend to involve other wholesalers and carriers in co-operative ventures in both markets. We believe this new strategy will help keep our overseas business expanding in the face of intense global competition.

RESPONSES

ONTARIO-QUEBEC TOURISM MARKETING AGREEMENT

Mr. McLean: I just want to respond briefly. Without knowing the contents of the agreement that was signed, it is very difficult to comment on it. However, when I look at the contents of the statement the minister made, I am concerned. Is there a Quebec office in Japan? Is there a Quebec office in the United Kingdom to deal with these matters with the ministry? What about Vancouver? We have a large Japanese population in Vancouver. Perhaps they could have been considered as one that we should be dealing with if we could also get them to come here in Ontario.

Without knowing the full contents of the agreement, it is pretty hard to comment, but I want to say that it is a step in the right direction when we are talking about all of Canada as one nation. I say to the minister that the further we look at the agreement, perhaps it should be expanded to other provinces.

Mr. Brandt: Very briefly on the same subject, I would like to compliment the minister for entering into this kind of agreement. It can, in fact, be a cost-saving measure when you have two provinces joining co-operatively in a program of this kind. I want the minister to know that our party supports the concept of what he has undertaken to do.

I too, along with my colleague, am a little concerned about the lack of detail with respect to the cost-sharing and how the implementation of the program will be brought about. But knowing and trusting the minister as we do, we know that those facts will be coming forward and that those details will be made available to us.

Certainly this province, along with other provinces in Canada, is going to require a great deal of initiative in order to present the best picture we possibly can with respect to Ontario in the Pacific Rim countries, and more particularly Japan because of the relationship of the Japanese yen versus the Canadian dollar. It is a tremendous opportunity for Japanese citizens to visit this country and this province at a huge discount. I think we have to take advantage of those built-in attractions that Ontario has at the moment, and we can do that through a joint effort, which I think is the kind of co-operative undertaking that we should be involved in with our sister province to the east of us.

I compliment the minister, I wish him well with the program and I want him to know that we

will be monitoring the results and the success of this program very carefully with him.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions to the Minister of Health. On Friday my staff spoke with the chairman of St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, which announced at the end of last week that it is planning to close 40 of its 184 beds; it is planning to send out layoff notices to some 40 staff on May 15; it is announcing the closure of four of 20 psychiatric beds, these being the only psychiatric beds that are north of North Bay; and it is planning to close surgical beds, paediatric beds, medical beds and one of four operating rooms.

Can the minister explain how it is possible that a major regional hospital serving northeastern Ontario has been placed by her government in this position; and how she can have one of her members stand up at the beginning of Nurses' Week praising the government's record on nurses, when the first day of Nurses' Week in Ontario is marked by a decision by a hospital in this province to have to send out layoff notices to nurses in the province?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and tell him that St. Mary's is one of 22 hospitals which has been under review because of a chronic deficit problem. Ministry staff have examined the operational review on St. Mary's and have learned that its deficit is due in part to the tremendous success of our underserved area program. The funding requirements of this program in the hospital base budget had not yet been acknowledged. Let me assure the House that they will be and that the bed closures and staff layoffs will not be going ahead as planned.

1350

Mr. B. Rae: It says something about the state of play in the province when a hospital is forced to make the kind of announcement that this one was forced to make on a Friday and then on a Monday the minister can say, "Well, this particular situation may not happen the way the hospital announced." Is the minister saying categorically, with respect to St. Mary's hospital, that there will be no layoffs and that there will be no bed closures?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: What I am saying is that a ministry team is now in Timmins working with the hospital to ensure that that hospital continues to provide essential services to its community.

I have informed this House on a number of occasions that we have been conducting reviews of 22 hospitals to determine some of the chronic and root problems. It is our goal to ensure that all hospitals provide essential services to the community and that they are fairly and adequately funded. That is taking place in Timmins.

Mr. B. Rae: I did not hear an answer to my question but I would like to expand the question by asking the minister if she could deal with the situation at the McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay. I am sure she will be aware that the hospital has told the ministry, "If you want cuts to happen, you make the cuts." That is the word from the hospital to the ministry, and one can hardly blame it.

Can the minister give us, first of all, an assurance—and I repeat my question with respect to St. Mary's hospital—that the hospital will not have to lay off staff and cut back on the number of beds providing services to people in northern Ontario? Can she make a similar commitment with respect to the McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I personally visited Timmins. I was also in Thunder Bay. As well, the deputy minister visited Timmins specifically. We are very aware of the needs of northern Ontario and have made a major commitment in our underserved area program to bring physicians to the north. The result is that in Timmins, we know that the success of this program has strained the hospital's base budget and that it is appropriate, following the review that was done, to adjust that base budget.

I expect the hospitals will be able to manage within the adjusted budget that the ministry will provide.

Mr. B. Rae: We now have 22 hospitals which are being placed in this invidious position by the government, each of them having to scramble to make decisions, and we have decisions announced on Friday in which the minister, as I have heard her today, has not stated categorically that will not in fact be taking place. I stand to be corrected by the minister, but I never once heard her say that there will be no bed closures and no layoffs in either Timmins or in Thunder Bay.

I would like to now turn my attention again to the Minister of Health and to the problem, the particular crisis which is affecting cardiovascular surgery in the whole province. I had a call on the weekend from one of Ontario's and indeed Canada's leading cardiovascular surgeons who phoned me, as he put it, not because he was a New Democrat but simply because he wanted to

make sure that I was aware of how unfair the minister's characterization of the situation was and how serious, indeed, the situation in the province is.

A statement made by Dr. Salerno—who was not the doctor who phoned me, I want to make clear—he is a university head of cardiovascular surgery who, in February 1988, in a submission to the district health council said, "The situation is morally, ethically and professionally unacceptable to patients, surgeons, cardiologists and referring physicians." I wonder if the Minister of Health can tell us whether she agrees with that statement.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have acknowledged in this House on numerous occasions in the past that advances in cardiac surgery in this province have allowed doctors to treat a wider range of people. There are a greater number of patients now recommended for this surgery and it has resulted in a waiting list. I am as concerned as the honourable member about ensuring that people requiring the care have it available as close to home as possible and when needed.

Mr. B. Rae: We have surgeons who are saying categorically that this situation is not morally acceptable to them. We have patients on that waiting list who are dying and the minister knows that. The waiting list is getting longer every day. The waiting list in the home territory of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) is as long as six months and, in some cases, longer than six months. In the Toronto area it can be as long as three and four months, and the people who are providing these operations tell us clearly and categorically that patients who are on a list for that length of time can get worse and some of them can die.

I would like to ask the minister, when a doctor who is head of the university department of cardiovascular surgery tells her that this situation is morally unacceptable, does she agree with him that it is morally unacceptable?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Our system is designed, and the Leader of the Opposition knows this, so that those in life-threatening situations get priority. When the doctor determines that his patient requires urgent surgery, the patient can be moved and is moved to the top of the list. That does not mean that there are not waiting lists. I acknowledge that there are.

Ministry officials have been meeting with experts in cardiovascular care. I myself will be meeting with them, in the very near future, to hear their suggestions for some short-term adjustments in Metropolitan Toronto. But as I

stated previously, we have, over the past two years, doubled the funding for life-support systems and we are moving to ensure that we have the capacity available to meet the needs of the people of this province.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister will also know, if she talks to anybody involved in the field, that patients who are on the list at one time as not seeming to be urgent suddenly can become urgent. There can be a very quick deterioration in care. People who respond to drugs during one week may not respond to medication in the next week. She is putting doctors in the impossible position of having to decide, from week to week, and to make very difficult judgement calls every day of the week in terms of whom they are to operate on. She is asking doctors to perform the impossible in terms of making these decisions.

The minister says she is looking for some short-term solution. Is she saying that this is a short-term problem? Does she not realize that in fact we have a structural problem with respect to the quality of care for heart patients?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Whenever we look at the system of health care delivery in the province, we look at planning for what the identified needs are going to be in the future, as well as what the needs are at present. In this particular situation, we are looking at some short-term solutions to what we believe can be responded to.

For example, we are looking at a central bed registry in Metropolitan Toronto to make sure that patients requiring care get to the closest available bed. But I would say that there are other things that we can do in the short term, and we are exploring them. As well, we want to make sure that our planning for the longer term is in place and that is why I have asked the district health council to review the need for a fourth cardiovascular unit in Toronto, as well as for expanding existing services outside of Metropolitan Toronto. We are looking at that as well.

The other thing that I would like to say to the member before I conclude is that this is a situation which is constantly under review by the ministry. I share his concern. We want to make sure that we are able to respond to the health needs of the people of this province.

Mr. Brandt: My question, as well, is to the Minister of Health, and it relates to the decision of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in connection with the moratorium that he has placed on the leaseback of certain equipment for various hospitals.

The Ministry of Health should be aware of the number of leasebacks that were being contem-

plated by the various hospitals because, in fact, as I understand it, the ministry was aware and had approved of certain leaseback arrangements as a result of the shortfall in the extension of funding that was provided to those particular hospitals.

They entered into those leasebacks with the minister's permission, as I understand. The minister is shaking her head and denying it, and I would like her to put that on the record.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Brandt: I would like to raise this question. Would the minister indicate to us how many hospitals had, in fact, in their 1988-89 budgets, contemplated leasebacks? What amount of money was involved and, as a result of the moratorium on the leaseback concept that was placed on the various hospitals by the Treasurer, is the minister prepared to make up the shortfall in funding?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The question asked by the leader of the third party sounds to me like a question in Orders and Notices, given the number of details that he has asked for today. Surely he realizes that the specific numbers would not be available at my fingertips.

I would like to talk specifically for a moment about the question that he does ask; that is, the ministry at no time gave formal approval to hospitals using this funding arrangement. What the ministry has done in the past is acknowledge the proposals from the hospitals and inform them of specific criteria, as well as its concern.

We are very pleased to have this moratorium, because it does give us an opportunity to review what is in place at the present time with those hospitals, to make sure that, as public institutions, their funding in other than government sources is appropriate and in the best interests of the taxpayers.

1400

Mr. Brandt: As the minister is aware, the leaseback arrangement was being used by hospitals in order to provide for some very essential services. It was to provide in some instances for services relating to acute care beds.

If the minister is indicating that there were no approvals given to any hospitals, if that is my understanding, then will the minister indicate to this House, if in fact hospitals are deemed to be operating efficiently as a result of her study and as a result of consultants' reviews of hospital operations, whether she is prepared to forward them to those particular hospitals, the 22 that she has mentioned and, I might add, others in the province that have some problems as well? And

is she prepared to extend any funding to assist those hospitals in alleviating their chronic underfunding problem?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The leader of the third party refers to a chronic underfunding problem. I have to significantly disagree with his portrayal. Since 1985 in hospital-based budgets in this province, we have increased by some 39 per cent. That is just since the 1984-85 budgets.

By world standards at the present time, Ontario as a percentage of gross national product is putting in 8.5 per cent of GNP, second in the world as a proportion of gross national product. On a per capita basis we are second in the world and have just surpassed Sweden. What this tells me is that there are adequate resources within the system. What we must do is make sure that we are using those resources as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Brandt: By way of a final supplementary to the minister, the one question that the minister fails to respond to is the question that is being asked by fully two dozen hospitals across this province.

Surely she and the Treasurer could come to some agreement with respect to how she is going to deal with this particular matter. On one hand, we have the Treasurer indicating a moratorium on the leasebacks. On the other hand, we have the minister indicating quite clearly that she is not prepared to make a commitment with respect to funding deficits.

Third, the minister now has hospitals out there which are indicating very clearly to her that they are going to have to cut services. It is going to have to be one or the other. If she will not allow leasebacks and if she will not provide them with additional funding, they are going to have to cut back on the services they are now providing.

Simply send them a clear signal. Tell them what it is that the minister intends to do. Are they in fact going to have to cut back on their services? That is certainly what they are telling us.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me point out to the leader of the third party that the majority of the hospitals in this province do meet their budgets. Some 25 per cent of them in fact have had surpluses in the past few years. Hospitals provide excellent care to communities. However, the majority of them do so in a fiscally responsible manner. It is our goal to make sure that hospitals are firmly and adequately funded. It is our intention for those who are experiencing difficulty and chronic problems to find out what those problems are.

As I have said before, there are no white hats and black hats. Every hospital and every member in this House has the same goal that I have, which is the provision of essential services to communities. We want to help those experiencing difficulty. We want to make sure that whenever the ministry approves a program, those hospitals are adequately funded.

Mr. Eves: I have a question to the Minister of Health as well. Last Thursday the minister said, in response to one of my questions, "The life-support funding for cardiac surgery in this province has doubled" since 1985.

Life-support grants for cardiology have increased from \$2.8 million in 1985 to \$4.6 million in 1988. That is an increase of 64 per cent, not doubled. Overall designated life-support grants have increased from \$15.4 million in 1985 to \$19.1 million in 1988. That is an increase of 24 per cent, not doubled.

The funding of designated life-support grants remains unchanged in total dollar terms from the 1987-88 year to the 1988-89 year; in real terms, a reduction of \$1 million in spending by the ministry this year. According to the Ontario Hospital Association, life-support funding is already below—

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Eves: My question to the minister is, that being the case, how can we expect a reduction in waiting times for those people waiting for cardiovascular surgery when the ministry is down \$1 million in real dollar terms from last year in life-support funding alone?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am trying to find a polite way to say that the member is wrong. I think "wrong" is the most polite way. The other word that I had in mind was not quite as polite.

There are four components to hospital funding that perhaps it is important for me to share with the member. One is an increase for inflation; two is an increase for life support; three is an increase for workload, and four is for new and expanded programs after they have been prioritized by the district health councils.

The amount for inflation funding goes to all hospitals. The amount for life support—which the last time that I calculated 2.1 to 4.8 was more than double, but I must get a calculator out to do that—

Mr. Eves: The difference between 2.8 and 4.6 is 1.8. I know it is a difficult one.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I cannot believe the member cannot add.

To complete the answer to the question, the life-support funding is done in negotiations between the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals, the Ontario Hospital Association and the Ministry of Health.

What I have stated in a number of answers to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) today is that our intention is to work to ensure that we have the services available in the short term as well as planning for the long term to respond to the needs. It is important to note, and let me underline again, that the system is designed to ensure that those—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Eves: In conversation last Friday morning with Dr. Tony Graham, the chief cardiologist at Wellesley Hospital, he indicated that the waiting time for getting a diagnostic test done, a catheterization process by a cardiologist in Metropolitan Toronto, right now is two to three months long. The number of people on that waiting list is at least two or three times, according to Dr. Graham, the number of people who are on the waiting list for cardiovascular surgery. So now we have patients having to wait two to three months to get the diagnostic tests done, two to five months to get cardiovascular surgery done in this province.

Does the minister think that is an appropriate state for the health care system in Ontario to be in in 1988?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It might be interesting to point out the number of centres where cardiac care is provided in this province: University Hospital in London, Victoria Hospital in London, Hamilton Civic Hospitals, Hospital for Sick Children, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, Kingston General Hospital, Ottawa Civic Hospital and Sudbury Memorial Hospital. What is significant about that list is Sudbury Memorial because it shows that we are trying to provide these services right across this province, in northern Ontario, and we have expanded treatment right across this province.

We can do better. There is more to do, but the point I would like to make is that while our system of health care delivery is reputed to be second to none in the world, the reason it is so good is that we are constantly striving to do better. We sometimes have to be cautious and careful that we do not cross that line when we criticize our system and recognize that we are always attempting to improve and do better.

Mr. Eves: If the minister insists on answering questions that were not asked, she could perhaps

provide us with a set of her cue cards before question period starts and we could ask her the questions that she has some answers to.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your request?

Mr. Eves: In further conversation with Dr. Graham on Friday morning, I reiterated to him that the minister understands that, if deemed necessary, critical cardiac surgery is available in Ontario when needed. I cannot tell the minister what Dr. Graham's response to her comment was because I would be ejected from the House if I told her his comment about her reply to that question.

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Dr. Graham suggested an immediate solution to the problems is to crank up every cardiovascular unit in Ontario to its maximum capacity today and for the Minister of Health to commit today to the fourth cardiovascular unit at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, which her ministry acknowledged a need for four years ago. She does not need any more reviews; she does not need any more studies. We just need a commitment from the minister today. Will she give us that commitment?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I will commit to the House today that if it is determined that a fourth cardiovascular unit is required, it will be provided.

UNDERSERVICED AREA PROGRAM

Mr. Hampton: My question is to the Minister of Health. I was struck, in the minister's answer to the leader of the official opposition, by the fact that she said the reason Timmins hospital was having a problem with its budget was because the underserviced area program has been so successful in attracting doctors to that community that it has placed pressure on the budget.

What does the minister say to the 33 communities from northern Ontario that were on the underserviced area list in December 1987, when 29 of them are still on and two more have been added? How successful has the underserviced area program been for all those communities?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Every indication we have is that the underserviced area program has been extremely successful. On other occasions I have given the specific numbers both of general practitioners and of specialists who have moved to the north. In fact, because of that program, in Timmins, for example, we have allowed the hospital there to become a regional hospital. I believe, while we can always strive to do better, that we are making great progress in providing

specialists and general practitioners to serve in northern Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: I am intrigued again by the minister's answer because one of the general practitioners I spoke to in northwestern Ontario said to me that in his 24 years there, he has seen an attrition rate of 21 doctors under the underserviced area program. In other words, 21 doctors have come under the program, have taken the grant money and then have left. That, to me, does not sound like success.

Furthermore, a community like Rainy River has been trying to recruit a doctor under the underserviced area program for a year, has been to every medical school in Ontario and now has to fight with this bureaucracy to get a doctor from the United States. How successful is the program when there is that rate of attrition and that rate of unsuccessful for a whole year?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Since 1969, when the underserviced area program first came in—I will acknowledge it was the previous government that brought in this program—there have been more than 1,000 health professionals, including some 600 doctors, 338 of whom are still on the program in the north. I believe that the purpose of the program is to encourage doctors to settle in northern Ontario for whatever period of time they can. When a permanent physician is not available, temporary physicians called locums are.

We recognize, as well, that this is an ongoing program. The needs of the north are unique and special and we are attempting through three programs—the northern medical specialist incentive program, the underserviced area program, and medical programs at both McMaster and the University of Ottawa—to respond to the needs of northern Ontario.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I have another question to the Minister of Health. St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins has gone to great lengths over the past couple of years to attract specialists to northeastern Ontario. In the last two years alone, they have attracted another obstetrician, an orthopaedic surgeon, another urologist and another radiologist. One of the reasons St. Mary's needs these specialists is because it is a regional hospital. Patients from across a vast area of northeastern Ontario are referred to St. Mary's in Timmins.

However, as the minister knows from the chairman of the hospital board's statement over the weekend, the hospital is now intending only to treat local patients. As a local hospital, many

people are concerned that it will not have the number of patients to justify these specialists and, as a result, will lose many of these specialists the hospital worked so hard to obtain. Doctors, nurses and the hospital board—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves: —are in complete agreement that the quality of health care in northeastern Ontario is in serious trouble—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Eves: —in light of the St. Mary's announcement. Does the minister share that concern and what does she plan to do about it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: What I am discovering is that not only does my critic in the third party not always have his facts right; he also does not listen.

I answered that question today. The answer is that we have acknowledged—in fact, in the previous answer I acknowledged—that Timmins is designated as a regional hospital. I want to congratulate not only the Timmins hospitals but also the district health council for the ongoing meetings and the leadership they have shown in bringing those hospitals together to make sure they are making the most efficient use of resources in those areas. Because of the success in the designation as a regional hospital and because we have been able to attract specialists to the north, the people of Timmins and surrounding area will not have to leave the area to seek health services.

I want to again stress that the funding for St. Mary's in this case is because it has met programs that have been approved by the ministry. I am delighted we are able to work with them to secure the kind of base funding to allow them to adequately meet the needs of the people in that area.

Mr. Eves: I am sure the minister is aware that the deficit at St. Mary's last year was \$1.3 million. The projected deficit for this year, I believe, is in the neighbourhood of \$2.2 million. The chairman of the hospital board estimates that with a cutback of 40 beds and 40 staff, the hospital would save approximately \$1.5 million a year. Is the minister today making an unequivocal statement in this House that she will fund the deficit of St. Mary's General Hospital so that it can still provide these services and there will have to be absolutely no cutbacks in its services whatsoever? Is she making that commitment?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Again, clearly the member is not listening. The deficit at St. Mary's is in large part due to the success of the underserved

area program. A ministry team is now working in Timmins with the hospital to ensure the hospital continues to provide essential services. We recognize there will be an adjustment to their base budget to allow this to occur. I expect that will be forthcoming and I do not expect the projected layoffs and bed closures will occur. They will not occur.

MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

Mr. Adams: My question is for the Minister of Citizenship. I represent a riding that has a very large variety of ethnic groups, but none of these groups is really large enough to establish a fully fledged, independent, cultural and social organization. What is his ministry doing for ethnic groups in this particular situation?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: I thank the member for the question. Frankly, it is not a situation unique to Peterborough, in that the changing face of Ontario I think means that virtually every community now has a rich multicultural diversity, and I think it is good.

The best thing I might suggest to the member is that what seems to work in other communities is to form a multicultural association. The Ministry of Citizenship does what we call core funding for those associations. We have a number of programs available, particularly in the language program and the immigrant settlement programs; plus we have several grant programs for facilities.

The last point I will make is that it is a policy of this government that every single ministry must respond to the diversity, so it is my hope that in addition to our ministry responding, each ministry is also responding to his needs in Peterborough.

Mr. Adams: In the case of Peterborough, many of the ministry's programs seem to be operating quite well, but several of the local ethnic groups have for many years wanted a centre of their own. This now appears to be impossible because none of the groups is large enough to develop one. Does the ministry have any programs that would support such a centre?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Yes. I am aware of the desire of the city of Peterborough for such a facility. We do have such a program, and frankly, I would welcome a proposal from the city of Peterborough and the multicultural group there with that in mind. It has worked well in other communities and I happen to think the city of Peterborough has a substantial need for such a program.

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HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Minister of Health. We on the opposition benches have had our ears perked right up trying to detect an answer in the Minister of Health's boiler-plate in respect of St. Mary's General Hospital, so I want to ask her again: Given all the talk about ensuring essential services and given the fact that the Medicus Review says the St. Mary's hospital is underfunded by about \$3.3 million, will the minister provide that additional \$3.3 million?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me try once again. Let me assure this House that the bed closures and staff layoffs will not be going ahead as planned at St. Mary's in Timmins.

Mr. Reville: The minister has gone on at us about the success of her underserviced area program. She has suggested somehow that if this program is a success, then hospitals are going to have to cut services, which is a really spooky way of approaching this situation. They are worried that they are going to lose their orthopaedic surgeon. They are worried that they are going to lose urologists, radiologists, thoracic and vascular surgeons, and speciality nurses. They already have a nursing shortage and cannot seem to hire nurses to fill the vacancies. The minister has consistently refused to answer the simple question, will the minister provide the additional \$3.3 million that has been determined to be necessary to fund this hospital at an adequate level?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Funding for approved ministry programs will be forthcoming for St. Mary's hospital in Timmins. It is clear. It is simple. The bed closures and staff layoffs will not take place.

Mr. B. Rae: Any of them?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have been very clear.

Mr. Harris: I have a question for the Premier (Mr. Peterson).

Mr. B. Rae: I asked her if there would be no layoffs and she did not answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nipissing; new question.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Harris: One of the options the select committee on constitutional reform is considering is to bring forward companion resolutions, along with the Meech Lake accord resolution, to deal specifically with two problems most people have identified: those of guaranteeing the rights

of women and the aboriginal people's desire to be at the table and on the agenda in the near future.

Last Wednesday, the Attorney-General (Mr. Scott) told the committee that if the companion resolutions dealt with future amendments only, he would leave that option with the committee. Will the Premier support that view and be willing to look seriously at companion resolutions, on those two issues in particular, that the committee might bring forward?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can assure my honourable friend, and it is a reasonable question, that the government will look very seriously at all companion resolutions brought in or any suggestions made by the committee. I do not think it would be fair for me now to say yes to those to the exclusion of others, because some of our colleagues have raised other concerns as well. But I can assure my honourable colleague that I take very seriously the report that will be forthcoming from that committee, as I am sure all members do, as we wrestle collectively with the problems inherent therein.

Mr. Harris: Let me go one step further. We know the Premier has given his word to promote the signing of the Meech Lake accord unamended and we understand the difficulty that may cause him if some proposed change comes forward, even if it is simple and even if it makes sense. It is ironic that this committee, which he originally opposed, is now, in my view, a safe political vehicle for Ontario to propose a couple of changes that may in fact break the logjam that is occurring in some jurisdictions.

My question is this: If the Premier is prepared to entertain companion resolutions which really will show good intentions—we can all say, "How good are we because we are proposing these for the future"—but which practically will not help sell the existing accord to those problem jurisdictions, would he be willing to look at single resolutions that the committee might go forward with immediately, before we ratify Meech, to see if we can get the ball rolling, take the lead without prejudicing Meech itself? In other words, they go forward on their own; no "all this or nothing" to them. They would simply be resolutions to go forward, to see if we cannot find some unanimity among the other jurisdictions and help sell Meech itself to the rest of those jurisdictions.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the spirit in which the honourable member raises the question. He, as am I, is obviously very interested in what is happening across the country in the way the various provinces and the federal government

are dealing with the Meech issue. Admittedly, it is a difficult issue for lots of parties across the country. I understand that.

The critical question really is how the other provinces and the federal government would view these matters. I think it is the kind of issue, and I say this in a completely nonprovocative way, on which the third party should have meetings with its federal party. I understand that perhaps his caucus will be meeting with Senator Murray. He will explain his views of how this thing is being seen in the rest of the country.

Then we all have to make a judgement at the end of the day based on our collective information about the nature of the debate right across this country.

I can assure my honourable friend that I value the committee hearings that are going on here. I think it has been, to the best of my knowledge, a full hearing, that people who came with delegations have felt they were extremely well treated and time was accorded by all members of the committee. I think that is important. I am very interested in what the committee has to say.

I am sure my honourable friend would agree with me that there is the issue of Meech and then there is the issue of subsequent constitutional meetings that will be created as a result of Meech. On questions my honourable friend raises—aboriginal self-government, for example, and those kinds of things—we have had conferences and progress was not made. But I think my honourable friend would agree that the question of aboriginal self-government is not affected by this particular agreement. In other words, the general amending formula in that regard, the 7-50, is not affected, and I would argue that we have a better chance of making progress in that regard with Meech.

All of these issues my honourable friend raises are individual in nature. I think we have to get the collective advice from the committee in this regard so that we can share it with the rest of the country. Whether in fact—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think that is a fairly full answer.

DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN FUSION

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. The energy history in this province has been one of nuclear fission, and now the discussion is switching from that area over to one of nuclear fusion. You apparently must have a substantial supply of tritium and I understand this province does have that. I understand that nuclear fusion might be safer.

What I would like to ask today is, what are Ontario's plans with regard to the nuclear fusion discussion and the nuclear fusion plans for the world? Do we have opportunities in that direction?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I thank the honourable member for his question. What we are talking about here is hydrogen fusion. We have a lot of hydrogen in the world. A lot of it is in the waters and the oceans of the world, of course.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) announced last week that he has offered Ontario as a potential host site for the new experimental reactor that the superpowers are planning to locate. This would put us in the forefront of energy research, because it could answer many of our energy problems 10 or probably 20 years from now.

A lot of experimentation and dollars are required to reach commercial viability, but if the experimental reactor were sited in Ontario, this would result in approximately 11,000 jobs for Canada, many of which, of course, would be in this province, and an estimated \$1 billion in federal and provincial taxes.

As the honourable member has indicated, as we are putting together hydrogen atoms, the scientists feel the easiest ones we can put together are the heavy ones. This would create helium and some energy, and of course that would mean that we, Ontario Hydro, could use up some of the tritium we have.

Mr. Owen: As I understand it, large sums of money are involved. I understand also that the four major world powers are also involved: the United States of America, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the European Community. Will they give us the opportunity to participate? Will they give us a role? What are our chances of participating in this thrust?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I believe our chances look fairly good. I think these four major superpower blocs that the honourable member referred to have recognized the special expertise and knowledge that Canada, and Ontario in particular, have in this field. When, through its organization, this group of countries decides, it will be deciding on a \$5-billion project where the funds will be expended approximately over a 10-year period.

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PLANT CLOSURES

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. The minister will be aware that last Thursday approximately 190 workers at the Greening Donald Co. plants in Hamilton and Midland learned that theirs were but the latest

plants to close a major part of their operations in Ontario. The closure, effective June 30, affects many workers with more than 25 years' seniority.

Inasmuch as we have no procedures in place to justify plant closures or any public audit board, can the minister tell us what kind of advance notice he had of this closure? Did he have anything beyond the May 4 letter that was delivered to his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: While the member for Hamilton East suggests that we have no plant-closure justification legislation, he will be aware that Bill 85 provides perhaps the strongest notice requirements of any jurisdiction in North America when it comes to plant closures. In fact, within the notice requirements of Bill 85, there is a requirement for a company laying off more than 50 people at any one time to provide a full explanation of the plant closure and, at the same time, to set out what steps have been taken to provide for the workforce that is going to be laid off.

Under the circumstances of the plant closure the member mentions, a form 1 would have to be submitted to the Ministry of Labour before any notice to any employee would be effective notice.

Mr. Mackenzie: In that respect the minister will be aware, I presume, that the president of the company, in his releases, and even more emphatically on television to the local community, made it clear that in spite of the best efforts of the workers over the last few years, one of the main reasons for the closure was dumping; if not actual dumping, the export of very cheap imports, largely from Korea. In spite of their best efforts, they were not able to compete with this kind of dumping. I believe there have actually been court cases involved as a result of it.

Can the minister tell us if this information was available to his ministry over the last period of time and if there was any monitoring going on whatsoever by the Ministry of Labour in an effort to protect jobs in Ontario, or does he even feel he has any responsibility when these kinds of products are brought into this country at such cheap prices?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think the member for Hamilton East makes a very good point. The essence of the point he makes is that if our industries and our workforce in Ontario, and indeed in Canada, have to compete with products that are being dumped in the Canadian and Ontario jurisdictions, things are going to look very bleak indeed.

I think it is appropriate for me to say, and to remind members of the House, that issues relating to the dumping of products by other countries are a federal responsibility. I tell the member quite frankly that within the Ministry of Labour we do not have the capacity to monitor that kind of dumping activity. It would be a federal tribunal to which the case was taken.

Notwithstanding that, I think it is an important point, an interesting point and one worth repeating: If Ontario is going to be able to succeed in a very competitive global market, we have to have trade laws that give us fair trading, not the unfair trade practices the member for Hamilton East referred to.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister of Education. Now that the Metro school board negotiations have been resolved, there are many questions which remain unanswered. Last Friday, at his press conference at the Royal York Hotel, he responded to the question of Sandro Contenta of the Toronto Star, which was whether the public boards are responsible for all the student accommodation needs in the separate system or just those needs of students who transfer. The minister answered that question, "Neither." This is the very question Metro wished to refer to the courts for clarification. The minister's answer last Friday has helped no one in this province.

What is the position of the minister's government? Is it his position that Ontario public school boards are responsible for the accommodation of students who transfer as a result of full funding? Must they also provide for the previous shortfall of spaces in the separate school system?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am happy to respond to the member by indicating that it is the position of the government that public and separate school boards in this province are responsible to ensure that all available school space paid for by all of the taxpayers of this province is utilized to the maximum extent.

Mr. Jackson: The minister is still evading the essential question which brought him to the table, brought him into the negotiations with Metro Toronto. He has stated that he is going to make the same offer to everyone else in Ontario, yet he remains silent, or at best unclear, as to what his government's interpretation is of Bill 30.

He has been aware for months. He and his entire cabinet has been aware for months. The Attorney General (Mr. Scott) himself went

before the Supreme Court and cogently argued all elements of Bill 30. Could the minister provide this House or make public the Attorney General's interpretation of the responsibilities of school boards under Bill 30 with respect to accommodation?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I do not know how I can be more clear to the member than to indicate that it is the position of this government that all school space be utilized to the maximum extent. I think the member errs in assuming that the fact that this particular issue was raised by both boards during the course of their joint negotiations is, in fact, what led to the ministry's involvement in those negotiations. In fact, that is fundamentally incorrect. What brought us to the table was a request by the boards to enter into negotiations. There was a very clear indication by the public board that it was willing and anxious to come up with a long-term resolution of the problem and that it was prepared to ensure that its surplus space was made available to the separate board.

INDUSTRIAL RESTRUCTURING

Mr. Neumann: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. The minister is aware that, with the Massey-Ferguson Corp. in receivership, the receiver, Peat Marwick, has the responsibility for disposing of the assets of that corporation. Among the assets is the 350-acre site with modern plant capacity on that site. What is his ministry doing to work with the receiver to ensure that a productive manufacturer occupies that site?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I thank the member for the question. I am sure members will all know that, up until May 19, it is in the hands of the receivers, and they have widely advertised it, seeking proposals for that site.

In the meantime, my ministry has prepared an information package. We have sent it to our offices throughout the world, we have made known to potential combines manufacturers the availability of the site and we have also made it known to other major industrial users. I should tell the member that, to date, we have had three serious inquiries through my ministry. Two of those inquirers have actually visited the site. Unfortunately, they have declined, to my knowledge, to make an offer.

We are working with the receiver. I have met with the mayor, with the industrial development commissioner of Brantford and with the federal government to see if we can, in fact, create some activity that could take up the site and also utilize the skilled workers who are in Brantford.

Mr. Neumann: The minister is aware that the closure of Massey Combines is only part of a process which has affected our community of Brantford. With the closure of White Farm Equipment in recent years and the several thousand jobs that have been affected, a major industrial restructuring is necessary in the community. What is the ministry doing to work with the community to ensure that a diversification of industry occurs in Brantford?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I think the member should know that what we try to do is apprise anyone looking to establish an industrial facility to go to communities in Ontario, and Brantford is one that we have at the top of our list. We have several other communities that we also encourage manufacturers to go to.

But I think if the member takes a look at Brantford's development over the last couple of years, he will see that they are diversifying. There is no doubt it has not reached the same level of employment it had when Massey and White were in full production, but it is certainly improving and I am quite optimistic that with the continued efforts of my ministry, with the efforts of its industrial development commissioner and with everybody working together, we can get that employment level back up to where it was.

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OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. A report released on May 3 by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) confirms that Metro Toronto's Ashbridges Bay sewage treatment plant in my riding is the largest polluter of Toronto's shoreline waters and a large producer of dioxins. It also spews out heavy metals, organic chemicals and contaminants such as DDT and polychlorinated biphenyls.

It is not surprising that the 350 workers employed in the plant have been complaining for years about skin rashes, nausea, fevers, headaches and respiratory problems. Some allege that the poorly regulated toxic intakes from the sewer system in Metro Toronto might also be part of the cause.

When is the minister going to pay attention to the very serious occupational health hazards in the Ashbridges Bay plant and the other Metro sewage treatment plants? Specifically, will he provide assistance to speed up the computer processing of the health data being collected by individual employees of the Ashbridges Bay plant over the past few years so that he will know

exactly what the problem is and can take steps to remedy it?

Mr. Speaker: The two questions have been asked.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I appreciate the member's concern. She did mention that the facility is in her riding and, obviously, she would have a special concern.

It is an interesting situation inasmuch as, from the point of view of the Minister of the Environment, the minister did comment on this the other day. Obviously, the real and ultimate solution to the discharge of substances into the environment is the municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program, which he has worked so hard to put into place, and the reduction of those chemicals coming into the sewage treatment plant.

In addition, I think appropriately, the member says that inside the treatment plant, obviously, workers are going to be working in an environment where chemicals are present. That is why we have put programs in Ashbridges, as we have in other treatment plants, to deal with the issue—monitoring programs and control programs that I hope and expect will appropriately keep workers from being exposed to those kinds of chemicals.

Ms. Bryden: To put another part of the problem right in his ministry, a considerable number of the workers in Ashbridges Bay have applied for compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act after undergoing medical tests by their family physicians and specialists which indicated that there were serious health problems. To date, almost none of these have been dealt with, and compensation has been denied in some cases.

Will the minister supply us with figures on the number of claims received to date in the past five years and on the number where compensation was awarded? Will he review the criteria for deciding what kinds of illnesses in this plant should be compensable?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: There are a number of questions there. Let us deal first with the request for information. I will certainly pass along to the board her request for that information: that is, the number of claims and the number of claims that have been acknowledged.

The member raises an issue that is obviously of great difficulty to adjudicate, and that is the exposure to substances which may give rise to industrial disease. The difficult problem here is to determine whether or not there is a link between an individual's health condition and

exposure to a particular substance. It certainly is not an easy linkage to make. On the one hand, we want to be sure that every single person whose health has been affected is appropriately compensated. On the other hand, we want to ensure that only those whose health has been affected have been compensated.

Mr. Speaker, just before you rise, I want to say to my friend the member for Beaches-Woodbine that I think the real answer to this problem is the effective implementation of the workplace hazardous materials information system program so that workers will have far better information as to those chemicals they are exposed to when WHMIS comes into force on October 31.

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is for the Minister of Skills Development. I am pleased to see the government's efforts to heighten awareness through Ontario's bright and hopeful young builders this week at the Future Building '88 expo here in Toronto, a wonderful program.

My concern, however, is with what happens when 50,000 young students and adults go back to their homes. These young people return home with tremendous expectations and hopes for apprenticeship programs, but they are confronted by problems such as waiting lists, having to quit school, moving away from their home, and regulations that do not make any sense, which the minister is very much aware of.

My question to the minister is, when can we expect a long-overdue overhaul of the apprenticeship program in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Curling: As the member knows, the Apprenticeship and Tradesmen's Qualification Act is about 60 years old, and my government has made a commitment to revamp and look at it in detail again to make it very relevant to today's economy and today's workplace.

What we are doing is to make sure that we approach this in a very intelligent manner and make sure that the consultative process is in place. We have done a lot by working with the unions. Members saw, too, that on the Premier's Council on technology, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) indicated that it will be meeting and setting up a system of looking at the training aspect of it in the Premier's Council. I think the consultative approach is in place, and we will be proceeding very carefully to assess the apprenticeship act.

Mrs. Cunningham: We have been listening for a long time, and 1,200 students from the city of London will be coming to Toronto this week.

They have raised expectations; they want to be involved in apprenticeship programs when they go home in the near future. The question is, when will they be able to be involved in these programs? Program delivery is important. When will they be able to be involved?

Mr. Speaker: I think the question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Curling: I am glad the member raised that question today. Future Building '88 was put on by the the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and is a tremendous success. Thousands of students are coming from all over the province just to see the building industry and the opportunity that is afforded them there.

We know there is a shortage in the skilled workforce within the construction industry. We know too that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has put an adequate amount of money in the community colleges so that those people can be trained. We will be responding to that. We hope this will be followed through, and we hope we will get the co-operation of all members of the opposition when we come through with some very assertive programs.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Kozyra: I have two petitions here from the citizens of Thunder Bay stating their opposition to Sunday shopping and wishing a common pause day.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Miss Roberts: I have a petition here to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly, a petition against day passes for the criminally insane. There are approximately 200 names on the petition. I have signed my name at the bottom of the same.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Velshi: I have a petition here from the national office of the Voice of Women, signed by about 15 people, a petition against the Meech Lake accord:

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"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"Canadians must ensure that women's equality rights are clearly written and well protected in our Constitution. The risks we see in the proposed Meech Lake accord should and must be

removed before ratification. For women, any risk is too much risk. We reject any proposal for companion resolutions to 'fix it up later' because we cannot trust all provinces not to exercise the veto.

"The accord must be revised to read that nothing in it will abrogate or derogate from any of the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

I have attested my signature to this.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO STATUTE LAW ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Act and the Education Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This bill deals with three important issues in the regional municipality of Waterloo.

The first is the updating of the assessment base for purposes of property taxation. The legislation will help correct existing inequities by permitting the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaitre) to undertake a uniform region-wide assessment update. It is similar to legislation enacted for Sudbury region in 1986 and for Haldimand-Norfolk region in 1987.

The second issue is waste management. The legislation will provide regional council with expanded powers to implement a comprehensive waste management plan.

Third, the legislation will authorize the region to collect an industrial development charge on certain lands in Cambridge and Kitchener. This will allow the region to recover certain specific servicing costs from those benefiting properties.

RESIDENTIAL RENT REGULATION AMENDMENT ACT

Ms. Bryden moved first reading of Bill 131, An Act to amend the Residential Rent Regulation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Ms. Bryden: The purpose of this bill is to extend the protection of provincial rent review legislation to the 1,080 units in the Main Square apartment complex in my riding.

At present this building, which is privately owned, has an exemption under the provincial rent review legislation on the grounds that it is administered and operated by an agency of the government of Canada; namely, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. This denies the tenants

the same kind of rental protection as other tenants in other—

Mr. Speaker: Order. An explanation is fine, but this is not the proper time to debate.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Reville moved that, pursuant to standing order 37(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that being the critical shortage of nurses, the serious imbalances in the delivery of health services and the resulting inability of the health care system to provide adequate and equal accessibility to required health care services in hospital and in the community.

Mr. Speaker: This notice was received in proper time, at 9 a.m., and therefore this motion is in order. I will listen to the honourable member, as well as representatives from the other parties, for up to five minutes.

Mr. Reville: I think one issue that the citizens of Ontario, and for that matter the citizens of this entire country, are agreed on is that the provision of health care services without reference to the economic ability of the citizens of Canada and of Ontario is absolutely essential.

Canada and Ontario are justly proud of their medicare system and of the health care professionals who provide excellent services within our health care system. So it is that at any time there appear to be problems—and it is certainly a time that there certainly do appear to be—in the health care system, we in the New Democratic Party view that as an emergency. In the spring session of this Legislature, my party, my leader and other members of the NDP caucus have raised time after time serious imbalances in the system that are preventing people in Ontario from having equal access to health care services they need.

These protestations on behalf of the New Democratic Party are not new. For many years now, we have been arguing that the health care system in Ontario suffers from serious imbalances, so that in fact a number of open-ended aspects of the system continue to receive the bulk of the funding, which has now ballooned to \$12.7 billion for this next fiscal year, whereas services that are delivered in terms of preventive health care and community health care have not grown at nearly the rate that institutional services have.

This has resulted, in our view and in the view of many health care analysts, in increasing pressure on hospitals and increasing costs being paid by the taxpayers of Ontario to Ontario health

insurance plan billings, the Ontario drug benefit plan and laboratory fees, without a corresponding improvement in the health outcome for the citizens of Ontario.

In terms of fiscal planning, it is indeed an emergency when one imagines that by the year 2000, at the rate at which it is growing now, our health care budget will exceed \$40 billion a year, which, of course, is in excess of the entire provincial budget at this time.

That means it will quadruple in the next four years, and if it quadruples in the same pattern it is now quadrupling, the bulk of that money will continue to be paid to physicians, to cover hospital budgets, to cover the Ontario drug benefit plan and to cover laboratory charges, and we will continue to see woefully inadequate services in the community in terms of home care and in terms of community-based health care services for people to serve them in the community in which they live and to not block hospital beds, as they currently are being, by inappropriate use thereof.

So we see a situation now where people must wait—sometimes they must wait beyond the point of no return—for needed surgery, because the government has failed to act to address nursing shortages, inappropriate bed usage and inappropriate allocation of services. We are now discovering more and more often that the health care system in Ontario is, indeed, being rationed. I repeat, it is being rationed, because for some people the wait is just too long: when their names come up on the waiting list, regrettably, they are dead.

Clearly, that is not the kind of health care system we want to see in Ontario. We believe the government must do much more than set up long-term task forces and mid-term task forces and have the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) lecture hospitals without regard to the services they must provide to meet the health care needs of the province. That is why, in our view, this debate is an emergency.

1500

Mr. Eves: I would like to rise and speak in support of the motion. I think it is a matter of urgent public importance. The critical shortage of nurses has been demonstrated not only in this House but in Ontario in the last two or three years.

Serious imbalances in the delivery of health care services and the inability of the health care system to provide adequate and equal accessibility to required health care services both in the

hospital and in the community are evident throughout Ontario today.

Dealing first with the shortage of nurses in Ontario, if we look at the Goldfarb report, the Ontario Nurses' Association had to resort to doing its own report, awaiting the report from the Ministry of Health which was on again, off again. We were told last November by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) that she was again restructuring a committee to look at the nursing shortage and that she expected the report of her committee by the end of February. It is now May 9, 1988, and we still have not heard anything from the Minister of Health or her ministry with respect to the nursing shortage in the province, other than her referring to it as a cyclical problem.

On April 25, she said in response to a question from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), "I'll be meeting with representatives from nurses in the next two weeks." On May 2, she gave exactly the same answer to the Leader of the Opposition, except that she went on to say that there are very real manpower problems in the health care system at the moment. "Within the next two weeks I am meeting with a committee that I have reactivated to look at the short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to what, in the past, has been a cyclical problem."

The minister just keeps on repeating the commitment that she is going to meet with nurses but she really does nothing about it. I think this government has taken the tack that it is going to study health care to death. Some of the reports it has commissioned in the last two years are the Podborski report, the Evans report, the Spasoff report, the critical care review with Dr. Sibbald as chairman, the Task Force on the Use and Provision of Medical Services with Graham Scott as chairman, a working group on community health services with Robert Graham as chairman, the inquiry into prescription drug use with Dr. Fred Lowy as chairman and the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower re-established in December 1987, to name but a few.

I think the questions being asked by nurses, by the Ontario Hospital Association, and indeed by doctors throughout Ontario, are very critical ones. Mr. Gordon Cunningham, president of the Ontario Hospital Association, has been quoted as saying, "In all honesty, we have tackled every method of cost control we can. We believe that we are declaring our true costs and society must look at whether we will be funded to the level of patient needs or not."

Another quote from the OHA chairman, Gerald Turner, who rightly states, "Ontario cannot expect to have unlimited hospital care with limited dollars." We have the Treasurer and the Minister of Health taking the position that they will not fund hospital deficits whether planned or unplanned, whether through any fault or mismanagement of the hospitals themselves.

I am quoting from an editorial here in the North Bay Nugget, "It does not help that the Ontario Liberal government is busy drawing financial lines that hospitals must not cross but won't accept responsibility for making the agonizing decisions that have to be faced. The government dithers while red ink piles up. But the only way costs can be substantially reduced is to accept fewer patients and to fire some staff.

"So who is to be turned away? The patient going slowly blind with cataracts who wants to see again? The typist with crippled hands who wants to get back to work? A child who needs an ear operation to hear what the teacher says? Where does the government want North Bay's hospitals to draw the line? Does it want them to become more parochial?

"No one knows, but the government, most particularly Ontario Treasurer Robert Nixon, has made it clear it will not pick up any more hospital deficits. So tell us, Bob Nixon, who do you want turned away from North Bay's hospitals, because to meet your demands someone must be refused service?"

That is the end of the quote from the North Bay Nugget editorial.

We have seen in the last couple of weeks, last week especially, cardiovascular surgeons and cardiologists in Ontario becoming extremely frustrated with the length of time that open-heart surgery patients have to wait on the waiting list for open-heart surgery and the lack of facilitation services available to them.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Eves: I think this, like the paediatric cases last year, demonstrates the chaos in the health care system.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am pleased to rise on behalf of the government to indicate that we will not be supporting the motion as presented by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville).

I have to indicate that although the honourable member would revel in the opportunity of speaking much longer to the point, certainly there is nothing in this motion which would indicate that the matter has become urgent over the weekend to an extent which would cause the

opposition parties to change their minds in their support of assigning Monday's debate time to the budget discussion.

It seems to me, and I listened with great interest to the member for Riverdale and also to the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), really what these people were doing was they were making statements more like those made in an estimates debate or, indeed, in a budget debate. Of course, today's business was assigned exclusively for budget debate. There was an agreement last Thursday that we would do that. There was also an agreement last Thursday that we would have a second day in which we could speak to the concurrences which are needed to be done to clean up the estimates process from last year.

It seems to me that there could be ample opportunity for these two wonderful people to speak, maybe at greater length than they could possibly under the restrictive rules which prevent them from speaking beyond 10 minutes, and I think we could probably benefit to a great extent from their interesting material.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I think it is really very unfair and unkind of the member for Parry Sound to indicate that the Minister of Health has been making statements about meeting and has done nothing. In fact, the member for Oriole, the Minister of Health, has met with and continues to meet with the nursing profession and is meeting today with the Advisory Committee on Nursing Manpower, and they are making progress with respect to the question of nursing shortages which the member is speaking about.

I might also just indicate that the nature of the motion itself indicates the shotgun approach which the opposition has come to take with respect to issues that it has no idea how it might solve. They have taken a whole series of items, made a very general resolution and said it is, all of a sudden, an emergency. It may very well be an emergency to the opposition, but this government has the matter well in hand because we have commissioned the type of work that will answer the questions the member for Riverdale has raised.

The Premier's Council is looking at all of the opportunities that are available and will be making reports on exactly how we can address the question of budget and on the delivery of alternative services.

I must say that while I found the members' presentations extremely entertaining, they were, in my opinion, without any substance at all with

respect to why this is an emergency. It was no better than they usually do in their opening salvoes in estimates. In fact, I must say they were very much more deficient because they had less thought, less care placed on proposing what might be solutions to what they see as an emergency.

It would seem to me that as a result of their inability to provide a focused resolution, they would really be very much lacking in compliance with the rule which says that we debate one item only. I am not going to dwell on that point, but they have set out about three different items which they have decided they were thinking about at the time, combined them in one sentence and decided that was enough to declare the issue an emergent one.

I think we have to indicate that this was designed to take away from the discussion today of a very important item, the budget, and that it was not more urgent today than it was last Thursday, when the agreement was reached that this would be a budget day. I can say that we would be much more productive and that there would be much more fruitful discussion if we went on with the budget debate instead of looking at this particular motion, which I think was not well conceived.

As a result, we will not be supporting the motion for an emergency debate.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the three speakers. Now, pursuant to standing order 37(d), I must put the question, shall the debate proceed?

1615

The House divided on Mr. Reville's motion to set aside the ordinary business of the House, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McLean, Pollock, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Swart, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Cooke, D. R., Curling, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Faubert, Fontaine, Fulton, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Kerrio, Kozyra, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Leone, Lipsett, Lupusella;

MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrondola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miclash,

Morin, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Oddie Munro, Owen, Phillips, G., Poole, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wong, Wrye.

Ayes 22; nays 66.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Hampton: I cannot say it is an honour to speak with reference to this budget. I can say that on behalf of my constituents, however, it is necessary to speak about this budget, more specifically to denounce it.

In personal terms for the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), things may be fine at Earl's garage in his constituency. Most of the garages that sell gasoline in my constituency are thinking of going out of business, because the plain fact they are faced with after this budget is that someone can fill up his gas tank on the Canadian side of the border, then go across to the American side and fill it up again and it costs only about half the price on the American side. So we have gasoline stations all along the US-Canadian border in Ontario that really have a problem on their hands thanks to this budget. How can you sell something at twice the price—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the member. However, there are quite a number of private conversations. We will just wait, maybe, until they are finished.

Mr. Hampton: The problem that many of these businesses have is how to sell a commodity like gasoline at twice the price someone is selling it for a mere 200 or 300 yards away, across the border in Minnesota or Michigan.

This government says it is concerned about entrepreneurialism and the development of business. This budget is going to put a lot of businesses out of business.

Just on the weekend I had the opportunity to speak to two or three business people who operate service stations along the border. Every one of them indicates that, without any doubt whatsoever, they have seen an incredible decrease in their business since this budget was brought down. People pull up to the gasoline station and say, "I will buy \$4 worth, enough that I can get across the border and fill up my tank, thank you very much."

I simply say to all those business people that they have the Treasurer of Ontario to thank, and they should write to him personally and thank him.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Aren't you supposed to represent them?

Mr. Hampton: Yes, and I am doing that now.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I feel bowled over.

Mr. Hampton: It seems that as long as things are fine at Earl's garage that is all that matters. That is the truth that is coming home to a lot of people.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order. I would remind the honourable members to direct their comments through the Speaker.

Mr. Hampton: Through you, Madam Speaker, to the Treasurer, there is a world beyond Earl's garage, there are gasoline prices beyond Earl's garage and there are business effects beyond Earl's garage.

The unfortunate part of this is that it is not just one or two businesses that are losing money. The fact of the matter is that when you talk to the owners and operators of these enterprises, they will tell you that if they had the business they had four or five years ago, before the Treasurer decided he was going to up the gasoline tax with every one of his budgets, they could hire and employ four or five more people.

When we have an unemployment rate in many of these communities of nine, 10 or 11 per cent, when we start talking about an individual business like that being able to employ four or five more people in each case, we are talking about a sizeable impact on the unemployment problem.

However, it would appear that the Treasurer really does not have a lot of sensitivity to these issues. If he did have sensitivity to these issues, he would note that there are other jurisdictions where governments have felt it necessary to increase gasoline taxes, yet in doing so they have allowed communities located along provincial or international borders to adjust the taxes payable in order that they can compete with neighbouring jurisdictions. Manitoba did that for some time, Saskatchewan did that for some time and Quebec tried it and was successful at it: all as a means to ensure that those businesses that have to face competition in another jurisdiction will have some leeway in doing it. I would urge the Treasurer at a future date, at a hopefully not-too-distant future date, to consider allowing communities which have to deal with other jurisdictions where gasoline taxes are not so

unreasonable to allow businesses in those areas some adjustment in the gasoline tax so that they will have the opportunity to compete and will not be forced out of business.

There is more to this budget than just gasoline taxes. If you look at this budget as a whole, all you can say is that it is an unbelievably unfair and regressive budget. It is an unbelievably unfair and regressive budget because the majority of the taxes are consumption taxes and, as any economist will tell you, consumption taxes hit those on limited incomes, on low incomes, much more heavily than they hit those with higher incomes, and yet the Treasurer has chosen to follow that route.

Imagine the impact on someone who is on a fixed income of \$20,000. Well, fortunately for us, other provinces have looked at this impact. Two years ago, when Saskatchewan did an interprovincial comparison of taxes, what it found, when you look at all the consumption taxes in Ontario, is that Ontario is perhaps the hardest province—the hardest province—when it comes to taxing those who are in the income bracket of \$21,000 a year or less, that we take an inordinate amount of taxes from those people and that Ontario is, in effect, a tax haven for those in the income categories above \$50,000 a year.

What this budget has clearly done is to increase the burden substantially on those who earn \$21,000 a year or less; and that, by definition, is an unfair budget and a regressive budget.

But this budget is also unfair and also regressive because of what it does not do.

I was appalled the other day to read in the newspaper that the automotive industry is doing and has been doing so well in the past three years that the president of Chrysler Corp., Lee Iacocca, had a total income last year of \$17 million from Chrysler. That is a total of salary and benefits derived from investments in the corporation and stock options in the corporation, which have done well as a result of Chrysler doing well. What that indicates, and the statistics will bear this out, is that the automotive industry has been doing very well in terms of profits in the last three years.

What the records also show is that the real estate industry has been doing very well in the last three years, much of the electrical appliance industry has been doing very well in the last three years and the computer industry has been doing very well in the last three years. All of these types of operations have major establishments in Ontario. They have major sources of income,

major sources of profit. Yet when we look at the Treasurer's budget, we see that none—none—of these types of business operations will face an increase in corporate taxes.

Really, this budget is almost like a message from the Treasurer to the business community, and what it in fact says is: "Geez, fellows, it's true we campaign like New Democrats, but the bottom line of this budget is you don't have to worry about us, we're on your side."

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I'm going to send that out to a number of people I know.

Mr. Breaugh: You already have.

Mr. Hampton: The Treasurer has already sent out that message in his own way, in his own very subtle way, and I am sure those who have received that message have rejoiced quite often and have telephoned the Treasurer quite frequently to tell him they are quite appreciative.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: This is a very helpful speech too.

1630

Mr. Hampton: Perhaps the economy of the Golden Triangle, the economy that exists around Toronto, can handle this budget. Perhaps income earners and consumers who live in the Golden Triangle, where the unemployment rate is dropping, can deal with this budget. But in northern Ontario communities, where unemployment rates are still in the 10 per cent range and many communities still have 20 per cent or 30 per cent unemployment rates, they cannot handle this budget. They simply do not have the economic resources, either in individual terms or in community terms, to be able to deal with this kind of tax grab.

And it is hurting communities. Not just communities along the border that have to deal with competition from American jurisdictions, but communities all across the northern part of the province. They are saying: "We simply don't have the extra income. We simply can't afford the gasoline tax when we have to travel three or four hours from one community to another. We simply can't afford the extra consumption taxes."

Another aspect is that it is very easy nowadays for governments to raise the so-called sin taxes. If things get tough, go after the old case of beer, increase the tax on someone's case of beer, increase the tax on the bottle of wine.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Ten cents a bottle. Big deal. How chintzy are they in the northwest? Are they all like that?

Mr. Hampton: I think it indicates exactly where the Treasurer is coming from when he says, "Ten cents a bottle. Big deal." Through you, Madam Speaker, I want the Treasurer to know that, for a lot of people in the communities I know, that 10 cents a bottle is a big deal, because there are a lot of those people out there who count their 10 cents every day to find out how they are going to be able to afford things.

I suppose when the Treasurer wants to enjoy himself, he goes to the local bar or a nightclub.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Not me.

Mr. Hampton: Well, the Treasurer cannot buy everything at Earl's garage, I am sorry.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You would be surprised.

Mr. Hampton: Maybe in the Treasurer's jurisdiction you can buy almost everything at Earl's garage.

The point of the matter is that for many people, being able to purchase a case of beer once every three weeks is probably a good part of their social life, because many people I know simply cannot afford the prices that are now charged in nightclubs, or even in the local tavern. They simply cannot afford those kinds of prices. When I hear the Treasurer say, "Well, it's only 10 cents on a bottle of wine," or "It's only so many cents on a case of beer," I find that he just does not understand the economic position of a lot of people.

More than this, more than just what this budget takes out of the economy, the unfair way it has taken it out of the economy and the disparaging way it has gone after people on fixed and low incomes and wage earners and has left the corporate sector absolutely alone, more than all those faults what is equally appalling is the way some of this money is going to be apportioned.

Just a couple of weeks ago I addressed a question to the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), and the substance of the question was why is it, if the home care program is so important in the government's health care strategy, that people who work in that program make no more than \$6.08 per hour?

The example I gave the Minister of Health was a woman who has worked for 18 years in home care, and after her 18 years of permanent work she receives a maximum salary of \$6.08 per hour—no benefits, no pension plan, nothing. This is supposed to be a program that is a priority health care program in Ontario. When I asked the Minister of Health that question, her reply was, "Well, you know, we don't have enough money to do everything."

So I look now at where some of the money from this budget is going to be apportioned in terms of health care. What is depressing is that the majority of the money that is going to go into health care is going to go into the same sort of institutional cost and paying increased sums to the doctors of the province.

It is not enough that this budget is regressive and unfair in what it takes from low-income people, middle-income people and people on fixed incomes. What is equally unfair is what it does not do in terms of providing or allocating money for some of the services that this government says are important and for the services that we acknowledge in this province are important.

I cite as one example the situation of people who work in home care and who are paid the measly sum of \$6 an hour and very likely will receive no benefits from this budget in terms of a fair and reasonable salary.

I could go on at length and cite a number of the statistics that our research section has put together for us on the impact of this budget. I could give discrete examples of how unfair it will be to senior citizens and to people who can only obtain seasonal work. Many people in the part of the province that I am from can obtain only seasonal work, or they are forced to put together two or three seasonal jobs and hope they come out of it with an income of \$20,000 or more, but in many cases less than that.

I could give all kinds of examples of how unfair this budget is to those people. However, I think I have made my point. The fact of the matter is, it is an unfair budget in terms of whom it taxes and the degree to which they are being taxed. It is an unfair budget in the sense that it leaves some of the major corporate players in Ontario's economy and some of the most profitable corporate players in Ontario's economy absolutely alone and without any tax increases.

It is an unfair budget in the sense that some of the programs that this government claims to support and claims to rate as a priority are, in fact, going to be no better off once these budget allocations proceed, according to the way in which these budget allocations will proceed.

I would urge the Treasurer to stop in at Earl's garage some Sunday afternoon and talk with the folks who frequent the place. Maybe he could come back with a budget that is fair for the average person in Ontario, one that is more reasonable for the average person in Ontario and

certainly one that does not profit the corporate sector of Ontario as much as this one does.

Quite frankly, anybody to whom I have spoken about this budget is dismally disappointed with it and has nothing good to say about it. That is how I feel about it as well.

The Acting Speaker: Are there any comments or questions on the remarks just made by the member for Rainy River?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I was just interested in the vehemence of the honourable member in being critical of the corporate sector not paying its share. I think he should be aware—and I am sure he is, having perused the budget so carefully—that the interim results of the last fiscal year indicate that the corporations paid \$3,607,000,000, and for the coming year they are expected to pay \$4,329,000,000. That is an increase of \$722 million in one year, not far off a 20 per cent increase.

Mr. Hampton: That's razzle dazzle.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Well, those are the figures.

He would also be aware that, on a certain page of the budget that I cannot seem to turn up as quickly as I would like, the share that the corporations are paying in the total budgetary revenue pie is increasing. The only share that is decreasing is the revenue that comes from the government of Canada.

1640

I think this is of significance to us as taxpayers, both nationally and provincially. There is only one source of public money from either level of government. It is something that I would really appreciate his assisting me in conveying to the public: that is, the federal share that was usually established in new programs involving post-secondary education and health was 50 per cent. As a matter of fact, during the generous Liberal days, this share went up to about 52 per cent. It is now about 38 per cent. These are federal funds in support of programs that are growing more rapidly than any others: our health services and post-secondary education. So I am just glad that, in one way, the honourable member, in his rather short-sighted view of our revenues, has raised it.

Mr. Breaugh: I enjoyed the speech by the member for Rainy River, and I would like him to respond a little bit to some of the concerns that others have raised. The Treasurer just led a spirited defence of his friends in the corporate sector.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: They are the people who make jobs.

Mr. Breaugh: The Treasurer interjects again that in the corporate sector are the only people who make jobs and create wealth. I would like the honourable member perhaps to respond to some of the not-so-witty interjections of the Treasurer.

Perhaps he could comment, too, on whether the Treasurer's chauffeur feels the same way the Treasurer does about the increase in the gasoline tax. I would like the honourable member to tell us, too, whether he has had the opportunity to ride in the back seat of the limo, with the Treasurer sprawled all over the back seat in great comfort. I wonder, too, if he would care to present to us a perspective from those who do not have expense accounts, those who do not go to the great, gala Liberal receptions of this world, those in fact who even buy their own wine.

I think maybe the member might be able to present to us then a slightly different perspective of the world from the one the Treasurer has. In fact, it might even be quite similar to the perspective that was displayed to the Treasurer so dramatically on the front steps of the Legislature, where people certainly had a lot to say about the Treasurer and his budget and did not seem at all to take the same attitude as the Treasurer.

Perhaps the member for Rainy River would care to respond to that briefly when he does his summation.

Mr. Hampton: I look forward to this because, in the altercations I have had with the Treasurer, this will be the time when I have perhaps the last word, at least for now.

I have saved a few for the Treasurer. I want to respond to some of the comments of the Treasurer, because the Treasurer has left a few things out. It is true that the federal government we now have has been somewhat stingy in terms of passing on to the provinces tax dollars that they can spend on health care and education. That is acknowledged all across the country, and that has been a problem. It has really been a serious problem for provinces like Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and the Maritimes, which do not have the abundant economy that Ontario has.

What the Treasurer leaves out as well is that the federal government believes in control by the market and in letting the wealth go where the wealth already is. The wealth has always historically been in southern Ontario, and southern Ontario has benefited tremendously from that federal government.

That is perhaps why so many of the corporations in southern Ontario are doing well. The fact

that the corporate sector may be kicking in a little bit of money to the provincial Treasury is not due to the studious efforts of the Treasurer. Some corporations are kicking in a little more money because, in fact, thanks to the market climate that this Treasurer and the federal Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, believe in, these corporations have been able to make a lot of money. In the interests of fairness, the Treasurer should have gone after them for more.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am very pleased to join in this budget debate, because it gives me the opportunity to express the very serious concerns that many of my constituents have brought to my attention since this budget was tabled in this Legislature on Wednesday, April 20, 1988, a day we all will remember, especially, I hope, the taxpayers of this province.

My constituents are angry. They feel a sense of betrayal. In fact, many of them voted for the Liberals last time, even in my riding, strange as it seems. Regardless of how they voted last time, they all share a feeling of despair. They tell me that the harder they work, the less they make. My constituents are good people. They work hard. They try to pay their bills, keep out of debt and save a little for the future, set aside something for a rainy day. All they ask of this government is to do the same thing: live within its means, control its spending and plan for the future for the sake of our children. Is that too much to ask of the government? I think not.

I think the real tragedy of this budget and this government's policy on taxation is the fact that it is destroying the incentive to work. "The harder we work, the less we make" is a common thread. It is a tragedy. This Liberal government is destroying the incentive to work.

Perhaps Brian Fox's Windsor Star article of April 21 summed it up best: "Ontario voters will start paying the price today for the massive majority government they handed the Liberals last summer.... With four years to make amends, Treasurer Robert Nixon nailed Ontario with the first sales tax increase in 15 years, taking a whopping \$1.26 billion out of their pockets with that and other tax increases.... For more than two years the Liberals have been the darlings of the public.... But the budget may prove to be the turning point in that love affair."

There is no question about it. The darlings are in trouble. The love affair is over.

I would like to move on now to Wellington county, my riding, and highlight some very pertinent concerns raised by the editorial staff of the Guelph Daily Mercury a month ago, Tues-

day, April 5. On this editorial page, in two sections, they make the following comments. This is dated April 5, a good month ago:

"Ontario's Liberal government, which reconvenes in the Legislature today, is showing signs of being unable to control and direct spending. This sounds unbelievable since the booming economy placed a \$1.3-billion windfall in provincial coffers last year.... Premier David Peterson's government seems to have developed a penchant for passing the buck—on to municipalities already straining from the need to provide more and more services. One has to look only as far as Wellington county to see the results of this attitude—residents there face a 21 per cent increase in the mill rate.

"The 21 per cent tax increase facing Wellington county taxpayers is cause for alarm.... To put it in skyrocketing perspective, that is before the Wellington County Board of Education announces its annual tax increase." Last year's tax increase for education was 9.3 per cent. "Some of the municipalities face nightmare increases. Nichol township, already paying the highest taxes in Wellington, faces a 21.4 per cent increase. Elora residents face a 27 per cent increase, and Fergus...25.6 per cent. The residents of Wellington county have good reason to be upset.

"Last year's Ontario budget received a warm welcome but this year's budget, expected in the next few weeks, will not be as lucky. Critics will want to know what happened to the windfall, where the money is going.... If Peterson feels questions from the opposition parties and the public are tough now, he won't like the next few months.

"Ontario deserves some intelligent, fiscally responsible answers."

1650

I represent 21 municipalities in Wellington county, and if I may use one, the village of Elora, as an example to demonstrate to this Liberal government the hardship that the budget will inflict upon these already heavily taxed citizens, it may then understand why so many people are angry with this government's regressive tax increases.

A home owner in the village of Elora will face an increase in municipal tax of 27 per cent, an estimated increase in education tax of approximately 10 per cent plus a 21 per cent tax increase from the county of Wellington. That is because the government does not transfer enough funds to the municipal level of government. On top of this, the same taxpayer is going to pay more taxes

through increased retail sales tax, gasoline tax, personal income tax and, of course, the sin taxes on booze and tobacco.

My constituents are angry. They have had it shoved down their throats once too often. Surely, during the good economic conditions we are enjoying in Ontario, there should have been some relief from heavy taxes, not an increase.

I would like to say that the tax dragon from St. George and his leader, the white knight from London, have misjudged the people of this province. The people are mad. They are as mad as hell and they will not forget. They told the Treasurer that on the front steps of the Legislature on Tuesday of this past week. Garth Turner, the business editor of the Toronto Sun, organized a protest movement that, in one short week, gained the support of 50,000 people and, on Tuesday, nearly 1,000 of these people gathered on the front steps of the Legislature to slay the tax dragon from St. George. The dragon escaped, but I hope he received some benefit from the message that Garth and his friends delivered in person.

Just so the Treasurer will not forget, I think this was the message they tried to give—

Mr. McCague: At least you got his attention.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Did the member see that?

Mr. McCague: Yes, I did. Let me see that again.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: It says, "Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

I would like to express my appreciation to Garth Turner for standing up for his beliefs and for his courage in leading this fight against this very unjust taxation contained in the recent budget.

I would like to quote one more paragraph from Garth Turner's column in the Tuesday, May 3, Toronto Sun: "It's unfair. It's also irresponsible. If the government can't balance the books and hold the line on taxes during the hottest economy ever, then it simply doesn't deserve to be the government."

Did the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston) hear that? It does not deserve to be the government.

Naturally, I share Garth Turner's sentiments and hope that the citizens of this province will convey that message to this government and its members. I can assure members that my party and my colleagues will be conveying the message too.

Though no one ever knew it, the budget policies of the Ontario Liberal government clearly show that it is an ardent supporter of

capital punishment. If you have any capital, they will punish you for it.

On that note, I would like to make reference to an editorial in the Financial Post, April 25:

"Spending in Ontario, after this week's budget, will have increased by 43 per cent since the Liberal government took power; taxes, 52 per cent.... What is disturbing about the Liberal tax grab is rather what it says about their lack of grip on the expenditures side of the ledger.... It cannot be doubted that in several key areas of social policy, Ontario is in crisis: desperate shortages afflict health care, which takes a third of the budget, education, which takes a fifth, and housing and social services, which together take about another fifth. But every serious study of these problem areas has made the same point: what is needed, before all else, is structural reform, making greater use of those useful allocative devices, competition and the price system, to better deploy existing resources.

"This in no way jeopardizes the commitment to social equity in these areas. But the Liberal government has not addressed the need for reform. Its answer is to try to float each crisis away on a raft of dollars."

That raft of dollars has expanded. I would like to remind the House of the budget revenue changes. Increase in retail sales tax, \$820 million; increase in personal income tax, \$272 million; tobacco tax, \$151 million; and gasoline tax, \$139 million: a total of \$1.383 billion. That is just the increase.

There are also the dollars in taxation that come out of the regular budget. Personal income tax now is over \$10.5 billion. Retail sales tax is nearly \$8 billion. Corporation taxes are \$4.5 billion. Gasoline and fuel tax is over \$1.5 billion; and they announce \$100 million for roads and think it is great.

Land transfer tax is \$0.5 billion. Tobacco tax is \$776 million and liquor taxes are \$1.116 billion. These are just the biggies.

What do we get for all these taxes? I could be uncharitable. Maybe the member for Huron (Mr. Riddell) would like to listen to this part. I could be uncharitable and talk about the increased costs in the Office of the Premier and Cabinet Office since the Liberals took power in 1985, but the fact is that I was not able to obtain any information from the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. The answer we received was to place our questions on Orders and Notices. I think this is the same minister in charge of the freedom of information legislation. Well, so much for that legislation.

I could talk about the several thousands of extra civil servants who have been hired in that same time frame and the costs involved for the increased level of services they are providing. If I can find out what they are doing I will let members know.

Madam Speaker, you will think I have been very negative in my remarks. Perhaps I can find a few positive aspects of this budget. Education: in the budget, \$900 million was committed to a three-year capital grants program. The Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) allocated \$13.4 million of this to Wellington county and the city of Guelph for four new schools, and I thank the minister for that. We are entitled to it, we deserve it since we are paying taxes, but I do thank him anyway. Perhaps after not receiving anything last year it only makes up for that. Both the Wellington County Board of Education and the Wellington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board were very pleased to receive this capital funding and so was I.

Further in education, the budget states that there is \$430 million over three years allocated to reduce class sizes in grades 1 and 2. I would say to the minister that in my mind this is a mistake. Surely when we have hundreds of schools across this province, with thousands of portables, it would make more sense to eliminate the portables before we start reducing class sizes. If there is any equity or fairness at all in this government's programs, surely it would not like to see the continuation of the portables at many of our schools while at the same time reducing class size in others. That does not make sense and it certainly is not fair or equitable. Every student in every community should be treated with the same degree of fairness.

I might also remind the government that the Liberals in the 1985 election promised to increase the provincial share of education costs from 46 to 60 per cent. This would alleviate some of the problems that the likes of the village of Elora have if the government would follow through with its commitment.

1700

Agriculture is one of the most important industries in Wellington, and I strongly support any initiatives to help our family farmers; but I must be very brief in my comments on this ministry because the budget had very little for agriculture—less than a two per cent increase, less than inflation.

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) brags about his government's commitment to agriculture. The budget is set at \$567

million, but the taxes on tobacco alone are \$776 million. In other words, in one tax on an agricultural product the government is reaping over \$210 million more than it is spending on its entire budget for agriculture. That is shameful.

This government brags about the percentage increase in the last three or four years, and it is true it did increase the budget for agriculture; but we must also remember that during those same years, Quebec, Alberta, the United States and the European Community all made massive commitments to support their farmers. The US alone in one bill, the US farm bill, pumped over \$25 billion into support programs for its farmers each and every year.

Brigid Pyke, the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, calls it a stand-pat budget, a disappointment to farmers. I think my good friend the former president of the OFA, the member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero), who sits right over there, would agree with Brigid's remarks.

Brigid had another comment about the farming community in an article in the *Toronto Star* headed "Queen's Park Scales Down Farmer Aid," which began:

"A popular aid program that cut interest payments for Ontario farmers will be scaled down this year, despite fears the move will push thousands towards bankruptcy, Agriculture Minister Jack Riddell says....

"Without full assistance, about 6,000 farmers with interest rates as high as 15 per cent will face harder times, said Brigid Pyke, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture."

"'This could be the straw that breaks the camel's back for many farmers,' Pyke said."

Most of that I have quoted, but I would like to know if the Minister of Agriculture and Food really does care about trying to save the family farmers.

I would like to turn for a minute to seniors and the disabled. We have a minister responsible for disabled persons and a minister responsible for senior citizens' affairs. One would think that with the clout from two ministers they could look after the problems of disabled seniors, but they cannot seem to solve one problem that is very pertinent to one area in my riding, and it must affect other members in this Legislature as well.

I make reference to a senior citizens' apartment building, Meadow View Place, in the hamlet of Hillsburgh, township of Erin, county of Wellington. It is a two-story apartment complex for seniors. It is a beautiful building and well designed with one exception: they did not

put in any elevators. Now seniors who have become disabled through a stroke, heart problem or even a broken leg are caught on the second floor and they cannot get out of their building. They are trapped. They cannot move to the main floor because the apartments are all rented. Therefore, they have requested assistance to install an elevator or a chair lift.

The project manager, Rose Andrews of the Township of Erin Non-Profit Housing Corp., requested assistance many months ago.

Hon. Mr. Elston: When was it built, Jack?

Mr. McCague: It had to be prior to 1985 because you haven't built a damned thing since you got in there.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The mistake of not installing the elevators was definitely made by the planning of the former government, but having said that we now have a problem and we should address it.

The project manager, Rose Andrews, requested the assistance of the government and received a reply back from the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson). I will quote from the letter that was received:

"The Minister of Housing is, as you mentioned, committed to equipping all multi-storey senior residences with elevators in the future. However, they have no grants available for retrofitting older residences built without elevators and she would like to direct you and the residents in question to the federal program, the New Horizons program."

Rose tried the Office for Disabled Persons, the office of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Ministry of Housing, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. and the New Horizons program. They all said, "No, and good luck."

That is not good enough. This government has to support our disabled seniors. If it has two ministers responsible for doing something over there, why do they not do it?

I would like to briefly mention the Ministry of the Environment, and I would make reference to the minister's press release of April 21. He states that because of the budget they are able to support the municipalities dealing with garbage disposal problems, an increase from \$15.4 million to \$22 million.

I support that because it is a needed incentive for our municipalities. The member for Oxford (Mr. Tatham) spoke on that the other day. We need more money in that program, and instead of

just money we need some incentive from the ministry, some leadership and some guidance in solving the problem. The people in Metro Toronto should be well aware of the concerns we are all going to have with garbage disposal. We need something more than simply allocating money; we need some leadership.

Municipal curbside recycling funding is up \$2 million to \$7.7 million. That too has my support. As a matter of fact, the Centre Wellington Solid Waste Management Committee is implementing a new program in Wellington and they will have an opening for the group's ninth municipality this coming Thursday. If the whip would allow me to attend, I would escape from this House for a short while.

Mr. Reyecraft: Go ahead.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Go ahead; everybody else does it.

Hon. Mr. Nixon: Half your buddies don't listen to the whip. Who is the whip?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have your permission.

I would like to congratulate the chairman of that committee, George Pinkney, and also the co-ordinator of the program, Don Taylor. These people deserve credit for implementing this program in Wellington. I hope they continue and make inroads with other municipalities.

Just touching briefly on health care, which we discussed earlier, I would like to make mention of this. I do not have enough time to go into this very important issue in any detail, but I would like to leave one thought with the members of this assembly.

There is a misconception about health care. Many members of the public think that Ontario has a free health care system. This budget drives home the point that health care is far from free. The Ministry of Health will spend \$12.7 billion on health care this year, an increase of \$1.2 billion over last year. This represents spending of approximately \$1,350 for every man, woman and child in this province. If we paid our health care costs directly instead of through taxation, it would cost my daughter's family of five \$6,750 this year, and likely more next year and in the future. Why does the Ministry of Health not make people aware of the tremendous costs in our health care system?

1710

Once more, I will offer my very positive and constructive advice as to a partial solution to the soaring health care costs in this province. I would like to make the users of health care knowledgeable about the costs of being confined in a

hospital or having an appointment with a doctor. A simple mechanism could be put in place. A patient, on checking out of a hospital or on visiting a doctor, would receive a statement similar to Visa or MasterCard, stating the amount of the billing. The patient would sign the same and receive a statement. It would not cost the patient anything, but would impress on that taxpayer that health care is not free.

If an individual or any member of this Legislature stays in a hospital today, has he any idea of the cost? Is it \$200, \$300, \$500 or \$1,000 a day? Surely, if people are not knowledgeable about the costs they will not be that concerned. I think it is a responsibility we should have, as members of the Legislature and of the government, to bring the cost of health care to the attention of members of the public.

In closing, I would like the members to take note of the red trillium pictured on the cover of this 1988 Ontario Budget. It is a beautiful red trillium. The white trillium that I proudly wear in my lapel is the official wildflower of Ontario. The red trillium is a stinking benjamin and is as deceiving as this budget. The red trillium is a beautiful flower to look at, but when examined closely you find it smells badly. In fact, it stinks.

This budget, tabled by the tax dragon of St. George, on and with the advice of his Premier, the white knight of London, was quite properly unveiled under a giant red trillium, the stinking benjamin. Like the stinking benjamin, this Liberal budget also stinks.

On that note, I think I should conclude.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member was getting a little personal there.

Are there any comments or questions?

Mr. Smith: I would like to make a few comments. I always enjoy listening to the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson). He is always sincere and I really believe he tries to speak on behalf of his constituents, but regarding some of the comments he has made today, I just do not know, really, whether I can totally agree with them.

He said, on the one hand, that we should not be raising all these taxes; and then, towards the end of his talk, he said we should be giving more for access funds to some of our disabled people. There is one area I could not agree with. Also, I want him to know that the Treasurer has said over the past three years, I believe, that we have created about \$7 billion worth of capital costs. These costs will be there for the people in the future.

I have heard more than once from some of the members of the Tory caucus that our government staff numbers are increasing dramatically. If we look back through the records, in about 1977-78 I believe, the Tory government had 1,000 more staff on hand than we do even 11 years later. I think we have to bring out all the facts on that.

I may agree with him on some of his comments on agriculture, but I think if you look back over the last three or four years, the agricultural budget has been increased by about 86 per cent. I think we have to look at it all in a fair way.

There was one other comment about the staff that I suppose I should mention. The last thing I remember the Tories doing before they realized they were going to go down to defeat as the government of the day was that they had to increase the numbers of their staff because they really did not know what they were going to do with all the numbers they had around in the government offices.

I just wanted to make a few comments. I certainly enjoyed the comments of the speaker from Wellington.

Mr. Harris: I want to congratulate the member for Wellington on giving us what I think is a very unbiased and nonpartisan view. Those members who have known the member for Wellington as long as I have will know that when he speaks on an issue, whatever it is, he consults his constituents and he speaks sincerely on behalf of his constituents. He speaks from the heart about what it is he believes. Partisanship is not known to the member for Wellington. Helping his constituents is, and putting forth a position on behalf of the the best interests of the people of Ontario is all I have ever heard come from the lips of the member for Wellington.

He was a member before I was elected in 1981. He has taught me more about representing my constituents. Many times he has said to me: "Mike, say what you believe in your heart, not what somebody else tells you to say. Analyse budgets or bills or particular subjects that you're debating and analyse them on your own. Consult with your constituents back home, talk to people and then put forward that position. Whether it's the party position or not, put forward that position. It will serve you in good stead."

It has been excellent advice. It has served me in good stead when I am able to take it. I confess from time to time I am more partisan perhaps than the member for Wellington is. But when somebody as sincere, honest, upstanding, straightforward and nonpartisan as he says this

budget stinks, members can be sure this budget stinks. I thank him for his remarks.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member for Wellington has taught me a few bad habits also. On more than one occasion when we were serving the taxpayers as members of select committees, we had an opportunity to compare notes and tastes.

The honourable member is dead wrong in this particular instance. I cannot help but feel that he has fallen into the hands of one of the platoon of speechwriters the public has provided for the third party, who get it into trouble so often. They just have to read these speeches before they deliver them in the House.

For example, to indicate even for a moment that this budget is anything but well accepted by the agricultural community is just not on. Members have heard the member for Lambton (Mr. Smith), who is himself a farmer, a real, prosperous farmer—one of those rare ones—indicate that this is an increase of just under 85 per cent since the Liberals took office. Part of that, of course, pays 100 per cent of the land taxes on the productive farm property and its buildings. Members need go no further than the rural areas of the province to know that this government is recognized as the friend of the farmer.

Beyond that, the member was harsh enough to criticize financing of education, which has grown so rapidly. He referred to the fact that 60 per cent of the cost of education should be paid in his area. I am sure the honourable member would know that in his own area we pay at least 60 per cent of the cost. In almost every community in this province, we are well beyond the 60 per cent level. It is only when we come to the high-assessment areas like Metropolitan Toronto and London that the rates go way down. In Toronto, we pay only two per cent. Is he suggesting that we pay a larger share of the education costs in Toronto? Surely that does not make sense.

In two seconds, I will tell the member that the red trillium stands for truth, justice, fairness and equity.

Mr. McCague: It was interesting to hear the member for Lambton, who keeps sitting over there chirping. Every time something is mentioned, that maybe the Liberals' priorities as a government are wrong, he says: "You want more money for this, yet you want responsible government." Certainly, we want responsible government.

The member might want to get hold of Hansard right quick, because he just said a few minutes ago that my honourable friend, who

makes an excellent speech every time he stands, had said, "You want to cut here, but you want to spend more there." The member for Lambton said that the member for Wellington said he wanted more money spent on the disabled and the member for Lambton said he could not go along with that. Maybe the member for Lambton wants to withdraw that comment.

1720

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I will start with the member for Lambton and just suggest that I was not critical in the fact that I requested money for the disabled seniors. As the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) comments, I do not think the member for Lambton would be either. We certainly would be willing to spend dollars in that area.

The point I am trying to make is that the Treasurer increased taxes by \$1.2 billion. He already has \$30 billion at his disposal, plus a lot of other windfall money on which he does not keep too close count. I am simply saying that some of the money can be better spent, rather than throwing it at some of the programs the government has come up with.

On a couple of occasions some of the Liberal members have mentioned to the opposition that if it wants any dollars, "Don't criticize the government." That is asinine. The ridings of those of us on this side of the House are entitled to as much money as any government member's riding. Hopefully, the Treasurer will see that this happens.

I am saying they can better allocate the money, and the disabled seniors area is one that I think everyone should support. On increased civil servants he is totally inaccurate. He had better check his facts on that. This government has increased the number.

The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris), in his wisdom, as always, made a wonderful speech and I will not comment further.

The Treasurer, in his remarks on agriculture, overlooked the fact that the Americans have poured \$25 billion a year into their farm subsidies. We are not doing nearly as much in comparison.

Mr. Brown: I am pleased to be able to participate in this debate today. My remarks will focus on the impact of the budget in my riding, the north and the province as a whole.

I begin by congratulating the Treasurer on bringing forth a budget which recognizes the needs of my constituents. This budget recognizes the needs in my riding for improvements in health care, education, roads, economic devel-

opment and general investment in services, both hard and soft, that will improve the quality of life and the quantity of opportunity in Algoma-Manitoulin.

Since the shameful display of arrogance of the official opposition here in this place on budget day, I have been meeting and talking with my constituents. They tell me that they were concerned with the budget deficit. In talking with Itchie and Mort over at McQuarrie Motors, they tell me that in the good times of our present economy, it is only prudent to have the lowest cash requirement, and they appreciate the fact that the Treasurer has produced a budget with the lowest deficit in 19 years. This is especially significant in view of the fact that Ontario is coming up short \$1.5 billion in funding from the federal government.

Mort and Itchie tell me that the people of my riding do not appreciate the sleight of hand of Michael Wilson. Mr. Wilson has thrown the ball to Ontario and has the outright political gall to ask the province to shoulder the fiscal responsibility for this nation, and then he complains when our Treasurer accepts the challenge and meets it.

They are further pleased that the government predicts savings of \$500 million dollars in increased efficiency in the functioning of government. These gentlemen know that after the recession years of the early decade, Ontario must progress and must make the investments in our future that a former regime neglected. They are willing to pay the price of positioning Ontario for the future, of improving our opportunities, because they know that one, we cannot mortgage our future; two, we must meet the challenges of a competitive future; and three, we must have the funds today, in good times, to meet the needs of our people today.

The other day over coffee at B & J's Bakery, I found that Bill is thinking of expanding. He has new confidence in the north and in the rural north. But Bill cannot understand the federal government's withdrawal of 1,200 civil service jobs from the north and appreciates greatly the fact that the Peterson government is transferring 1,600 civil service jobs to the north. He cannot understand the logic of a federal government diminishing its presence in the north. He has trouble understanding why the federal government continues to shift responsibility to the province in northern Ontario and then attempts to take credit for the improvements that are happening in our area.

He does not understand how the province's attempt to bring government closer to the people,

to have the civil service closer to the people it serves, to have the civil service seeing the north's problems the way northerners do and not seeing it the way you see it from Toronto or Ottawa, is not a good policy. He thinks he is right and Brian Mulroney is wrong.

If the federal government had just held steady on federal jobs in the north, we all know that service would be better and more consistent with the north's interests, and the province's initiatives would have had much greater impact.

While on this topic, I was surprised and even shocked that the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), in speaking to this debate last week, felt that the Ministry of Northern Development should not be self-contained, with its own human resources branch, its own legal branch, its own audit branch and other services. The member, who was obviously relying on shallow research, suggested a concern with the growing administrative cost of the Ministry of Northern Development.

Upon reflection, I am certain the member was not suggesting that the Ministry of Northern Development not relocate to the north. He certainly did not mean to imply that the ministry should not expand to meet the needs of northerners.

The member, in his simplistic and casual observations, was looking merely at raw numbers and not acknowledging the great changes taking place in the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines.

The ministry is presently installing a computer network in the numerous towns and cities all across the north for better co-ordination of services and has established a French-language co-ordinator to more sensitively serve the franco-phone community.

Surely the member, a northern member, was not saying that the additional jobs, now close to 570, that the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ministry of Labour will be bringing to Sudbury should have been left in southern Ontario. Surely the member is not suggesting that the ministry not expand and be corporately self-contained to work and to serve the north. Surely the member was not suggesting that the annual payroll of about \$16 million for 500-plus jobs should have stayed in southern Ontario.

If the member was suggesting efficiency, I, like every other member, would agree, but the member must consider the size of the task.

If the member was trying to imply a false impression of management, I urge him to

carefully examine the implications to the people of the north. Constructive, balanced suggestions like those that might come from the northern government caucus would be much more helpful than the superficial rhetoric the member offered last week.

I am sure all members support the decentralization of government to the various regions of the province. The third party is not in a particularly good position, looking at its record, to criticize this government over its relocation plans.

As I have mentioned, this government's relocation plans involve, to date, a shift of 1,600 positions to northern communities, with a payroll of \$48 million annually. The construction of the buildings necessary to accommodate the civil service is occurring with an emphasis on northern design and northern suppliers and contractors. These buildings will have a cost of approximately \$200 million. To date, over half the design work for these buildings has been done by northern people.

This relocation program will bring government closer to the people it serves and will no doubt help make decisions more consistent with the northern experience.

Perhaps the most exciting announcement for the north in the budget is the creation of the heritage fund. The budget announcement was followed by the introduction of the legislation by the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine). The fund is \$360 million. It is unique. It will operate on \$30 million annually, which is guaranteed into the 21st century.

This fund will operate from a separate bank account, which will see any unspent moneys accrue and draw interest. It will be administered by a board composed of a representative cross-section of northerners.

The fund is new money and above and beyond existing programs. This fund will operate with broad criteria which will be essentially defined by the board of directors so that it may respond effectively to ongoing and evolving challenges and opportunities in the north.

1730

I would call on all members of this Legislature to move expeditiously to see that the legislation is put in place so that the fund may, at the earliest possible moment, be ready to meet the needs and the challenges of our region of Ontario. The legislation was created after the most extensive consultation and input possible, including that from the northern development councils, various interest groups, conferences, individuals and the

northern government caucus. It is an important tool for the north and I urge all members to act with care but with haste in approving this important legislation.

I would like to take just a few minutes to talk about some of the programs that are ongoing in the north. The northern forest biology institute, at a cost of \$4 million, is currently under construction by the Ministry of Natural Resources at Lakehead University. The institute will provide the northwest with a major forest research facility and foster increased public and private co-operation in the wise management of Ontario's forest industry. As a centre of excellence, it complements the efforts of the government, Laurentian University and the Ontario Mining Association to create the equivalent in mining in Sudbury.

A technology development unit at cost of \$5.4 million, is to be constructed next year in Thunder Bay and North Bay. The technology development units will develop and test new forest technology to ensure the industry's future competitiveness and help keep jobs in the north.

We have a television extension to northern Ontario at a cost of \$6.5 million which will provide cable extension to 85 northern Ontario communities not currently served by either cable or the TVOntario satellite extension program, and it is funded by the Ministry of Northern Development.

The northern Ontario goods distribution office, at a cost of \$1.1 million, was established by the Ministry of Transportation. This office has handled hundreds of calls since opening and estimates that it has helped save northern Ontario shippers \$1.2 million in distribution costs.

One of the better programs is the northern community municipal economic development agency, MEDA. It has provided funds for the creation of five municipal economic development agencies. Six more MEDAs are expected to be established this year. Elliot Lake, Parry Sound, Hearst, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing have all been approved under the MEDA program. Funded over five years, the MEDA officer works within the municipality to develop long-term planning strategies to identify and develop local business opportunities and attract new business and investment. Eight other northern community economic development programs are already in existence.

In the area of waterfront development, the Ministry of Northern Development has assisted approximately 26 communities to prepare waterfront development studies in the north. We have

had a number of these in my riding and just had one approved last week. Many of these communities are now actively in the implementation stage of these projects. To date, the ministry has provided approximately \$3.5 million to these northern communities to assist in the implementation of waterfront projects.

This does not take into account contributions from other ministries. A number of significant waterfront projects are now complete or nearing completion. These projects have resulted in a private sector investment totalling approximately \$15 million and the creation of a substantial number of jobs.

Just two weeks ago, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) and I had the pleasure of turning the sod for the first NOTICE building, part of the northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program, in my riding at Little Current. Today, eight communities have already received funding under this program to build tourist information centres. Another 12 communities are well advanced in the preparation of proposals in this program. This is a good program for the north. It will help tourism and the travelling public.

To wrap up, this budget represents a fiscally responsible document which does not mortgage our future, but rather makes sizeable investments in our future. The budget reflects the view that in good times we, as Ontarians, must pay for the services we demand. The budget makes significant new commitments to northern Ontario in a wide range of programs, from health to roads to the heritage fund.

At the same time, the budget is fair and equitable, increasing aid to low-income Ontarians by \$444 million, benefiting 1.8 million people. Sales tax credits are set at \$100 per adult and \$50 per child, more than double the total benefits under this program for low-income households. The Ontario tax reduction program will eliminate another 350,000 low-income tax filers. The Ontario health insurance plan premium assistance program will also be enriched, resulting in an additional 30,000 people no longer paying premiums.

It is interesting to note that the bulk of the new revenue measures will be spent on health, education and housing. These are investments in our future and these are investments that are necessary. I urge all members to support the Treasurer in this courageous, balanced approach to Ontario's future, which is designed to fairly and equitably meet the needs of today, while positioning Ontario to build the world-class,

compassionate and competitive society we all strive for.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any honourable member wish to comment?

Mr. Callahan: Just very briefly. I listened with great delight to the speech of my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown). It is interesting how the speeches on the budget continue to be somewhat similar: a progressive budget by our Treasurer, moving ahead to create for the future, to rectify some of the things that have arisen out of past lack of interest by the former government.

I speak of that very candidly because in my riding of the city of Brampton, for many years we had grave difficulty in terms of even coming close to keeping up with the schools that were required for the tremendous growth.

Hon. Mr. Elston: But they did not have a good member like they have now.

Mr. Callahan: That is right. I can remember many times telling my council that we should take some objection to this, and yet it seemed almost as though there was a conspiracy of silence. Building went on day after day, year after year, and it resulted in a large number of portables being put in place.

Although we have not been able to address the totality of that inaction by the former government, we are at least moving in a positive direction. In each of the budgets the Treasurer has passed, he has recognized for the first time—the previous government never did this—that Brampton and Peel region is a growth area and that to fairly rectify the inactivity in the past it was going to require this recognition over a period of time, to try to address the failings of the previous Conservative government.

I congratulate my colleague, but as I say, it seems on each budget address similar things come up, and they always remain a matter of looking towards the future and trying to rectify the sins of the past.

Mr. Adams: I congratulate the member for Algoma-Manitoulin on giving us a northern perspective on the budget, and in particular the Algoma-Manitoulin perspective. I thought perhaps he might be interested in some of the impact on my own riding in Peterborough.

The heavy capital expenditures associated with this budget are a very special feature of it, but in my own riding, Sir Sandford Fleming College, for example, received over \$7 million. The university there also received between \$7 million and \$8 million for capital expenditures.

For the main highway project there, Highway 115, we have received close to \$10 million this year.

For the local hospitals, we are just completing an ambulance headquarters at the cost of something less than \$1 million. A new emergency department is being initiated this year at a cost to the province of over \$8 million and there will be long-term care beds at the hospital which will cost many millions of dollars.

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These are examples of the sorts of expenditures which come from this budget. I like them because, first, they allow these institutions to catch up from years of neglect. These sorts of investments also create jobs and stimulate the local economy and I also see these expenditures as a real investment in the community. For example, when Highway 115 is widened our local economy will be more efficient.

The expenditures at Sir Sandford Fleming College of Applied Arts and Technology are on a robotics centre, which will improve the high-tech capacity of Ontario. At the university the expenditures are on environmental science, which will help us clean up the local lakes. I also like the fact that expenditures of this type are not built into the budget base for next year. This means that we are looking ahead to further active growth in the province.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I would be remiss as Minister of Natural Resources if I did not respond to such an excellent presentation. The fact that the member has spoken as a northerner has brought into focus the technology development units that we are putting into northern Ontario, and the chairs at the universities. The real commitment to northern Ontario that has been needed for such a long time has finally begun. When I say that word "begun," I use it very advisedly because this province and this government intend to bring northern Ontario in as a full partner in the advantages that we have and the economic benefits flowing across the province.

It is obvious that our northern members have a good feeling about how this budget is going to impact on the various communities that they represent and what a good feeling it is in northern Ontario. For those who have not visited, I would encourage them to do so because there is a new feeling in northern Ontario that it is finally going to play a complete role in the province as it has not been able to do in the past. When our members get up and share that with the Legislature and with those people who have not had that wonderful experience, I think that we

would be remiss if we were not to thank them and encourage more of them to bring this wonderful message here to the Legislature and have them have it flow to the rest of the people in the province.

I think the New Democratic Party members would be particularly proud that we do not do what is done in that great mother country of theirs, Sweden, where they take all of the taxes from the people who work there. We do good things and we do not take nearly as much or impact on those citizens to the degree that those people do. As I said before, I am pleased that kind of message is flowing from these great chambers. The people across the province are going to be very pleased and thankful that the northern Ontario community is going to share the benefits of this great Nixon economic boom.

Mr. Brown: I would like to thank the members for their useful comments, particularly the comments about the good feeling we are having in northern Ontario.

Two weeks from today I will be attending I think probably the first-ever Conference 2000 to take place on Manitoulin island. There is a real feeling in my riding that we are looking to the future with great expectations. There is a solid feeling in the business community. We are creating jobs for the first time in a long time in the small business field. We are seeing investment. I think the feeling within our riding could not be more positive at this time.

I welcome the members from southern Ontario who have been so supportive in caucus of the goals of the northern members and I welcome all the initiatives that have come from our members to help us in having northern Ontario take its rightful place in the province.

Mrs. Cunningham: It gives me great pleasure to be able to speak in the House this afternoon to the budget that has been presented for this fiscal year. It also gives me some excitement, I think I should say, because the last discussion was about the north and, most recently, I did return from the north and I will be speaking about the north. It will have to do with poverty in the north. Not everything is wonderful and I will speak to that as I come to that part of my remarks.

I would like to start to discuss this budget in terms of a more recent by-election in London North. I must state that there were probably three very large issues in the by-election, and one of them, of course, was the then upcoming budget. We can laugh if we like but, in knocking on doors, as all of us did—all representatives of the public who were trying to be elected—we were

told by the citizens, no matter what party we represented, that they were very much concerned about this government's out-of-control spending, its lack of financial planning, its somewhat arrogant approach and its disregard of the public.

They were very concerned about increased taxes. Of course, at that time we were not certain that would take place, but during the by-election it was stated by the Treasurer that this was something that would be considered. I am not certain anyone truly expected it, but in fact we know now that it did happen.

What the citizens were very much aware of is that this government did, for the third year in a row, spend over its budget. When one thinks of the citizen of today, that is considered extreme mismanagement because most families do not have the luxury of spending more than their budgets. So, for the third year in a row, the citizens advised me at the door that this was just totally unacceptable.

In spite of this overspending—and I would not be arrogant about these statements—this government has been very fortunate to receive more money than it had planned on. Most families are not in that position. So we are in a very serious situation here.

I think the biggest blow after the election, and certainly for the taxpayers in Ontario—it is no use pretending it is not a blow; there is no use pretending that people do not care—was what was described by the public to us as “the sales tax grab.” No one would have expected such a move in these booming economic times.

People who are working hard, who are contributing to our economy, are being penalized by this move. They were looking forward to contributing even more this year than they had in the last year. Probably through their own careful planning, they were hoping to spend more on their homes and on their families. Now they are being asked to contribute more towards big government, and I say that seriously.

I heard some people this afternoon talking about 10 years ago. If all of us plan for the past, where will we be in the future? It is just fine to talk about big government in the past, but this government is bigger than it has ever been. In looking very carefully at the statistics as I prepared myself for the election, I realized that the numbers in government were being reduced for a period of time—up until 1985. Since 1985, the number of people employed by government has increased significantly.

During the by-election, the number that I was able to acquire—from, I might add, the Liberal—

was the number 5,000. With the budget I am told we are looking at over 7,000 new employees in less than two years. That is unacceptable.

The Treasurer sat here a little while ago and said he wanted some help. I am trying to advise of the help that we can give to this government if it would just listen, not only to the people out in the neighbourhoods but to the people here in this Legislature. There is a total lack of planning. If the average citizens, in their own businesses and in their own homes, planned like this government, they would go broke.

First of all, the government spends more money than it plans to spend and, second, it does not pay its debts first, and that is a problem. Everyone expected the deficit to be wiped out this year and it did not wipe it out. Members can chat all they like, but the citizens are concerned and the government had better do something about it, because if it does not, they will remember. People are looking to government for leadership, and this is not leadership. They worked hard to contribute and they got nothing in return.

Across Canada people say to some of us who live in Ontario, “Wow, what a place to live: a booming economy, people are employed.” So far we say, “Great.”

[Applause]

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Mrs. Cunningham: And I am clapping with you. So far, great. But the prognosis is not great. We will be right down the tube and we will not be bragging in a very short while, in spite of our hard work and our efforts on a daily basis as we contribute to this economy and in our own homes.

If the government does not budget properly and stick to it, more and more families will be suffering, and they will be suffering just as they are today. The people of Ontario must really be saying to themselves, “OK, so what is the good news these days?” At a time of unprecedented growth and prosperity in Ontario, this Liberal government has done everything it possibly can to ensure that the people who created that growth do not get to enjoy any of the benefits.

Aside from asking themselves where the good news is, the average working man and woman in this province must be wondering when they are going to be allowed to reap some of the benefits of the present economic boom. They were planning on it this year. It is hitting them at the gas pumps, it is hitting them when they buy new homes, it is hitting them when they buy clothes for their children and it is hitting them when they

try to put a little bit of money away to plan for their future and the education of their children.

That is because this government decides it knows better about planning money. It knows that it cannot possibly leave even an extra nickel in the pockets of average Ontarians to help pay the rent or to save for their children's education, as I previously mentioned. The government thinks it would be bad policy to let people keep a few extra dollars to buy some new children's clothing or to buy more groceries. They know better than to allow that kind of thing. Shame on them. That is because they honestly believe that big government, more government and more spending are going to lead us to the promised land, when in fact they are more likely to take us into the ditch, and I mean it. The government knows the numbers as well as I do.

People will be watching for a response to those election promises. By the way, they were the government's promises, not ours. Some of the things they promised the public did not even want, and the public knew better than they did, because it knows they will not be able to deliver them. And the government will not be able to deliver them, I can assure it. There are far too many. All one has to do is add them up. I do not care how many dollars the government takes from the public; it will never have a chance to deliver all those programs it promised. The government had better pick and choose which ones are the most important.

They are going to be watching, especially now that this government has made them so angry. They will remember, and in London we will be reminding them often, because it is the government's promises that they come to me about, the things the government said it would do. They are asking me when they are going to happen, and I do not think most of them will.

Mr. Reycraft: Like the transfer of a public high school.

Mrs. Cunningham: In education, yes. We will talk about that right now. The member said it. Let us talk about education. People are being asked to pay more taxes, and in return they are expecting just basic services for their dollars. They are not going to get them. With the amount of money set aside for capital in this province for the next three years, the government will not be able to deliver schools in communities in the next three years. In fact, the government can laugh and make fun, but it knows that unless it looks at its own policy for the next budget year, it cannot do it.

The \$1.7 billion that was requested by school boards in Ontario was real bucks, and the government cannot talk about the disrepair and the portables of the past government, because people do not give a damn. What they want is schools now. In the past decade the public had schools. We sent our children to schools, not portables. We sent them to schools where the roofs were not leaking, not because we did not fix up the roofs, but because the roofs did not need fixing. They were not 20 years old, they were not 30 years old, they were 10 or 15 years old. Now, most of us had to plan—

Interjection.

Mrs. Cunningham: Yes, we did put them in. We put them in because our province was growing in numbers and there were more children. And then we went into a serious state of decline. Boards that managed well filled up empty spaces, and many of them were able to keep their school buildings. They are not asking the government for money now. Other boards are growing at an unprecedented rate. They need new schools, and this government is going to have to provide those new schools, because that is what you call the basics in a budget. Twenty to one in grades 1 and 2.

An hon. member: But you say we're spending too much. You want more schools, but don't spend more money.

Mrs. Cunningham: Spend money on schools, not on big government. I did not campaign in this election to spend more money. I campaigned in the by-election to spend money where it is needed and where it is warranted.

Twenty to one in grades 1 and 2. Who asked the government? It has promised 20 to 1 in grades 1 and 2. It never could have done it. If it had even done its homework, it would not have promised it. Now I have to go out and face parents who are expecting 20 kids in grade 1 and 20 in grade 2 because the government promised it. It did not think about the numbers of teachers it would have to employ and it did not think about the new classrooms. Do you know what that would have done? In 1987—

Mr. Reycraft: Did you read the report?

Mrs. Cunningham: That was your promise. Rant all you like, but you promised it. You were not even thinking. You were downright irresponsible.

In London we built one school in 14 years, because we were in a decline. Do members know what that meant in September 1987, given the government's promise? Five new schools. What

a dumb thing to promise people. What does it do? Expectations. Young people think they are going to get all these things because the government makes irresponsible promises, and some of us have to live with them. But that is not how I am living with them. I am telling them they will not get the schools, because the government will not do it. It is going to spend its money somewhere else. Heaven only knows where it is spending it. It sure has enough and it cannot build schools.

Twenty to one: very nice. As a school board trustee for the last 14 years, I would have loved to promise the public that. In 14 years we went down three students, as an average, in this province, because we could not afford to do it any other way. Never mind talking about it; we could not afford it. Now these people have got the whole province upset because they are going to do this. I dare them to do it. I do not think they can, and they certainly are not going to do it unless they raise the sales tax again by five per cent next year.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Five per cent?

Mrs. Cunningham: Yes, that is what you will have to do. I have done my homework. You cannot do it. You will not do it. You should not do it. That would be truly irresponsible.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I doubt it. You probably just got finished writing that speech.

Mrs. Cunningham: I did not need anybody to write my speech. All I had to do was go on your promises and I had a speech.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I remind all honourable members to make their comments through the chair.

Mrs. Cunningham: Madam Speaker, I need some direction at this time on process. I have just got into this budget speech, and it seems it will be six o'clock soon. I have a lot more to say, obviously, and I am wondering what your direction would be.

On motion by Mrs. Cunningham, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

NURSING HOMES

102. Mr. Wiseman: Would the Minister of Health provide the following information: Since June 1985 how much money has been allocated annually to both private and nonprofit nursing homes? As well, please provide the number of

beds which have been opened up in both types of institutions. [Tabled April 13, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The fiscal expenditures for the extended care program in nursing homes for 1985-86 through 1988-89 are as follows:

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Actual	\$265,350,136	\$284,248,153		
Estimate			\$341,593,300	\$395,102,500

To obtain the expenditure for the period June 1985 to March 1986, as requested, the annual expenditure has been prorated for the nine-month period and estimated at \$199,012,602.

To determine the expenditures to nonprofit homes and private homes, the actual and estimated expenditures have been allocated in proportion to the number of beds in private and

nonprofit homes at the beginning of each fiscal year. This method has been used because all homes are paid the same per diem rate by the ministry for occupancy by a nursing home resident.

The numbers of private and nonprofit beds are outlined below for the periods in question:

	June 1985	March 1986	March 1987	March 1988
Nonprofit	1,686	1,781	1,995	2,141
Private	27,881	28,086	27,977	28,037
Total	29,567	29,867	29,972	30,178

Based on this allocation of beds, the following provides the information requested:

Allocation to Private and Nonprofit Nursing Homes

	June 1985- March 1986	Fiscal 1986-87	Fiscal 1987-88	Fiscal 1988-89
Private	\$187,661,997	\$267,298,142	\$318,856,125	\$367,071,668
Nonprofit	\$ 11,350,605	\$ 16,950,010	\$ 22,737,175	\$ 28,030,832
Total	\$199,012,602	\$284,248,152	\$341,593,300	\$395,102,500

The information is provided for the period referred to above:

In June 1985 there were 29,567 beds in operation, of which 1,686 beds were in nonprofit homes and 27,881 in private homes. At the present time there are 30,178 beds in operation, including 2,141 in nonprofit, with the balance in private nursing homes. The increase has been accomplished through the addition of 455 nonprofit beds and 156 private beds.

NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

117. Mrs. Grier: Would the Minister of Municipal Affairs provide reasons for his decision, given in a letter from him to interested

parties, dated February 18, 1988, to vary the recommendation of a hearing officer, appointed under the provisions of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, on a development permit to allow the demolition and reconstruction of a bridge on the 4th Line Road, township of Mono, Dufferin county, located in the "escarpment natural area" designation of the Niagara escarpment plan? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The reasons for my decision are as follows:

The proposal is compatible with the intent and purpose of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

The proposal does not conflict with the objectives of the Niagara escarpment plan or the local official plan.

Neither the Ministry of Natural Resources nor the local conservation authority felt the new alignment would be detrimental to the natural environment.

The conditions attached to the development permit are designed to reduce the impact of the new bridge and alignment on the natural environment.

The Ministry of Transportation considers the present alignment to be poor and substandard. The new alignment is supported by that ministry and meets their standards.

The new alignment provides a safe right of way to local traffic and good accessibility for fire protection and ambulance services and is expected to reduce traffic hazards presently encountered.

The new alignment is supported by a number of local residents who are concerned with the safety of the existing bridge.

BROCKVILLE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

120. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Government Services outline why the bid by Microtel to supply a new telephone system for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital was unsuccessful? Is the minister aware that Microtel offered to contribute, free of charge, the switch for this system? Will the minister confirm that the administrator for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital was part of the evaluation team that recommended the Omni system? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Patten: The bid by Microtel was part of the GH Communications Group response to the request for proposal (RFP) document issued to vendors by the Ministry of Government Services to secure a telephone system for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital. This bid was unsuccessful because the equipment did not satisfy the mandatory requirements of the RFP.

I am aware the equipment was offered as a donation to the hospital on the condition that a receipt be issued for tax purposes. This option

was proposed as an alternative bid by GH Communications Group. A "donation" type response was not requested in the RFP document and it would not have been fair to other vendors responding to the RFP to consider this alternative, even if mandatory requirements had been satisfied.

The assistant administrator for the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital was part of the evaluation team. This team did not recommend the Omni system from Microtel. The hospital administrator was not part of the evaluation team.

INTERIM ANSWERS

97. Mr. Breagh: Hon. Mr. Patten—The ministry requires additional time to provide the information required by this question. The final answer will list only those patented lands to which the Ministry of Government Services holds title. It will not include highway rights of way, crown lands or lands held by other ministries, crown corporations or agencies. The answer should be available on or about June 15, 1988.

104. Mrs. Cunningham: Hon. Mr. Curling—An answer is being prepared and will be available on or about June 30, 1988.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

EDUCATION

Sessional paper P-13, re creation of one consolidated school system.

Hon. Mr. Ward: It has been public policy in Ontario since 1899 to provide for public funds to support education in the two school systems. The government intends to sustain this commitment as completely as possible.

INTERIM RESPONSE

Sessional paper P-16, re creation of one consolidated school system in Peterborough.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The answer is not available at this time. An answer will be available on or before May 20, 1988.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrondola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
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Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
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 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
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 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
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 garry PC)
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 (Fort York L)
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 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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Government
Publications

No. 60

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, May 10, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 10, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

NATIVE LAND CLAIM

Mr. Wildman: Over 100 years ago, the Tema-augama Anishnabai, who are the first nation of the Temagami area, began their struggle to control the land they believe belongs to them. They never ceded their land in the first place since they did not sign the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850.

In 1973, after the provincial government of the day had proposed the Maple Mountain resort in the middle of the disputed area, the Tema-augama people obtained a land caution on 110 townships, which froze further land development.

The current controversy over land use in Temagami has heightened the urgency to resolve the native land claim. I understand that Chief Gary Potts and the band are prepared to negotiate under fair terms with the government rather than having to wait for the matter to be resolved in the courts early in 1989, as scheduled.

We need a government committed to upholding the right of the native people to a negotiated settlement of the land claim. A negotiated resolution would be infinitely preferable to a judicial one.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) have not dealt fairly and properly with the Tema-augama. It is completely inappropriate for the government to be considering a new forest access road anywhere in the disputed area without making a commitment to negotiate a final settlement of the land claim. While various interest groups clamour for their pieces of the Temagami pie, the government must remember its first responsibility to our native people.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I would like to bring to the attention of the members of this House an example of how the Ontario health care system has failed one of my constituents.

David Elgie, who lives in the town of Fergus, requires surgery to replace an artificial hip joint that is worn and broken. While his condition is not immediately life-threatening, potentially it presents a significant risk of infection. It is also necessary for him to use crutches to alleviate the pain.

After consulting with his orthopaedic surgeon in Toronto on April 20, 1988, Mr. Elgie was informed that he must wait until April 4, 1989, almost an entire year, for the surgical procedure he needs. His doctor explained that the delay is due to the strict ceiling that has been placed on the artificial joint budget.

According to his doctor, Mr. Elgie could very likely be able to obtain an earlier appointment for his hip surgery if he were a resident of another province or if he were covered under workers' compensation. Were it not for Bill 94, Mr. Elgie would have been able to pay personally for the device he needs and would gladly do so, but he is denied that right.

This is totally unacceptable. Mr. Elgie is a patient of Ontario's health care system, but he is also its victim. Is this the Liberal government's idea of the finest health care system in the world?

SUNNYBROOK MEDICAL CENTRE

Mr. Velshi: I would like to take this opportunity to advise members of this House of a significant announcement made in my riding of Don Mills. Some months back, the Sunnybrook Medical Centre, in co-operation with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and the Ministry of Health, unveiled plans for a \$12-million research centre to be constructed on the Sunnybrook campus. On April 27, the minister made good the government's commitment to assist in the funding of these new cancer research laboratories by announcing that the Ministry of Health will be providing \$2 million towards their completion.

Sunnybrook provides programs for trauma, including spinal cord injury, cancer, mental health, cardiovascular diseases and liver disease. Under the aggressive leadership of Peter Ellis, president and chief executive officer, Sunnybrook has also identified the care of the elderly

and the diseases of ageing as one of the major programs for the future.

Congratulations to Sunnybrook Medical Centre and the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation for their co-operative approach to research in order that new knowledge and technology will benefit all of the people of Ontario.

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Wildman: As predicted, the government-appointed Temagami Area Working Group has done little to resolve the conflict over land use in the Temagami area. Since the group failed to reach a consensus, the Liberals are no farther ahead now than they were when the conflict boiled over during last summer's election campaign.

The New Democrats believe there are two ways to resolve this conflict. There must be a full environmental assessment hearing into the environmental, economic and social impacts on the whole Temagami area of building the proposed Red Squirrel Road extension and the Pinetorch corridor. Also, there must be a reallocation of timber licences for the Temagami area mills. Why are any mills in the area short of timber when Consolidated Bathurst is cutting east of Highway 11, only about 40 miles from Temagami, and hauling the logs to the Arnprior area some 200 miles away?

The Ministry of Natural Resources evidently provided information to the working group chairman, Dr. Daniel, to indicate that the alternate timber allocations for Liskeard Lumber could be made available so that the existing road through the park could be closed within the next few years.

The Ministry of Natural Resources must also locate alternative timber allocations for William Milne and Sons so that the proposed roads south of the park do not have to be built. The Ministry of Natural Resources environmental submission on these roads is totally inadequate. For example, it deals mostly with environmental effect only along the road corridor itself. A formal hearing with expert witnesses should define the size of the wilderness buffer zone around the park—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

Mr. Pollock: At the end of March 1988, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) announced a major change in the management of

commercial fishing in eastern Ontario. These steps included a gill net ban in specified areas at specified times; a buyout program for fisherman who wished to quit gill netting entirely or retire from fishing; and an encouragement of conversion to live-capture fishing gear.

While I strongly agree with the minister that commercial fishing and sport fishing can coexist in Ontario as long as there is co-operation among users of the resource, I remain concerned that these latest announcements do not go nearly far enough. Between 1985 and 1987, the minister's buyout program reduced gill net fishing in eastern Lake Ontario by 30 per cent. Since this program has been so successful in the past, I and many other concerned individuals are left wondering why this buyout program is not continued across all Great Lakes and why the minister has not increased the allotment of funding to the buyout program. Furthermore, why is the minister not providing money which would allow—in fact encourage—commercial fishermen to change from gill nets to trap nets?

Although I am happy to see the minister continue to take an active role in gill net and incidental catch issues, I am left wondering when he will complete the job.

1340

FOREST FIRE

Mr. Miclash: Today I would like to update the House on the forest fire burning within my riding, referred to as Kenora 14. This fire has been burning since April 30 and is presently 22,100 hectares, or 56,100 acres, in size.

I am pleased to report that no further spread is anticipated. At present, the fire is split into seven divisions, all but one of them being held. There are 125 Ontario crews and five Manitoba crews, totalling 650 people, plus 180 support staff, working on this fire. Air support includes two CL-215 water bombers on standby at the Kenora airport, although eight CL-215 water bombers were on the fire at the height of the burn.

There are many groups that must be thanked for their tireless efforts in fighting this fire, especially the Ministry of Natural Resources from Kenora and Sioux Lookout and other regional and district staff. They provided all the support necessary to maintain the 130 crews in the field. Appreciation must also be expressed to the provincial governments of Quebec and Manitoba for their provision of water bombers and crews.

As members will know, this fire created a need to evacuate the Whitedog reserve, to restrict

travel on some of the roads and to evacuate the cottaging communities of Malachi and Ottermere. I am pleased to report that all evacuees of the Whitedog reserve are now at home again and that Via Rail will be resuming suspended services to Malachi and Ottermere.

The citizens who live in the area of the fire are to be commended for their co-operation.

QUEEN'S HOTEL

Mr. Breaugh: Every community worth its salt has a hotel called the Queen's. As Joni Mitchell used to say, "They want to pave paradise and put up a parking lot."

For years, the Queen's Hotel in Oshawa has provided advice to an entire constituency. It is a Mecca where they have perfected the art of the chilled draft and the pickled egg.

I know all members would want to join with me today in just repeating with some reverence that chant now famous in Oshawa, "God save the Queen's."

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO NATIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Phillips: An important part of my mandate as Minister of Citizenship and minister responsible for race relations is to provide some of the financial and community support needed to help native people achieve their aspirations both of self-reliance and economic independence.

As the native people work toward these goals, they have told us that what they need and what they require is access to investment capital and to facilities that will help provide them with a centre for social, cultural and economic activity in their communities.

Within my ministry, we have the native community branch, which works very closely with native organizations right across this province to help achieve these needs. In consultation with the native groups, my ministry has been able to develop programs that support native people in their effort to achieve this self-reliance.

Our Ontario native economic support program, known as ONESP, addresses the issue of access to capital and funds community centres, business parks and small business centres. In this next fiscal year, we will fund approximately 35 projects and allocate about \$5 million to this fund.

Today I am pleased to announce the awarding of three significant capital grants that are designed to meet those needs. They are important in their own right because, for the communities

that are receiving them, they are major capital projects. They are also important because I think they are indicative of the direction of our funding program, which will enable local native groups to pursue initiatives of their own development and design.

The first of the three grants has been awarded to the Pe-tay-ka-win Development Corporation of Big Trout Lake. The grant is approximately \$250,000 and will help this organization to build a hotel and a restaurant. It is a very important development because it provides much-needed jobs, training opportunities and an economic program for this community.

The second of the grants will go to the Kingfisher Lake Band in the Kenora area to help build a multi-use community facility. The facility will house an auditorium, a classroom and a boardroom and will be used for meetings and community celebrations. We will fund approximately \$245,000 of this project.

The third of the grants has been granted to the Nagwagano Native Development Corp. In this case, we will fund about \$130,000, which will help the corporation acquire and then renovate a facility that will fund and house two small businesses in the village of St. Charles, which is southeast of Sudbury. This facility will play an important role for the St. Charles community. It will provide commercial space along with business counselling and management training support.

All three of the grants that I have announced today—and by the way, all three of them are in the northern communities—as well as the other innovative programs that we administer in our native community branch, will foster the overall goals of our ministry in relation to the native people. They enhance access to economic opportunities and very much strengthen local communities. They reaffirm this government's commitment to the principles of self-reliance and economic independence for Ontario's native people.

RESPONSES

ONTARIO NATIVE ECONOMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

Mr. Wildman: I welcome the statement by the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips) with regard to grants for native communities. It is unfortunate, though, if this government is really interested in the principles of self-reliance and economic independence for Ontario's native people, that it is not moving ahead on negotiating

self-government for the Indian people of this province.

It is unfortunate, too, that this government as yet, and particularly the Ministry of Natural Resources, has not recognized the need for an economic land base, a resource base for the Indian communities across northern Ontario and southern and eastern Ontario, so that they will have an ongoing revenue from those resources, so that they can develop their economic and social—

An hon. member: Framework.

Mr. Wildman: —framework themselves. Thank you.

I welcome the announcements by the minister, but I want to emphasize that it is important not only to deal on an hoc, one-on-one grant basis but actually to look at an overall, ongoing economic base for the Indian community.

It would also be useful if this government were to recognize that the Indian people of Ontario suffer from a far greater percentage of disease and social impediments than any other group in the population and would respond to the needs for Indian-controlled, native-controlled, health and social services in such a way that we will be able to respond to those needs instead of continuing the approach we have had in the past.

For instance, why is it that we have not yet funded the Anishnabwe health centre? Why is it that we are not dealing with the number of native people who are incarcerated in our jails? Why is it that we are not recognizing that Indian people must control their own destinies rather than depend on government handouts at either the provincial or federal level?

Mr. Sterling: I cannot help congratulating the minister in a small way for bringing forward three projects, but I think it does point out, as the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) has pointed out, the failure of his government to really attack the basic problems of our native communities, particularly in the north.

We have not seen from this government any leadership with regard to native-related issues. There were lots of promises about what was going to happen, but we still see a government which has jurisdiction for dealing with native problems divided between two ministries. We still see a complication, when native groups come to the Ontario government for assistance, as to who is really in charge of their affairs.

I think if the government were really serious about attacking the basic problems in relation to the native community, it would sit down and say that one minister is going to be in charge of this so

that he can deal with the issues, both in terms of funding and in terms of making policy decisions.

Perhaps if the Minister of Natural Resources were to sit back and listen rather than talk, he might learn something from a former minister who was in charge of these kinds of matters.

1350

At any rate, they are a few positive steps of very small magnitude, and therefore I cannot criticize him for taking those three small steps. They are really of no great significance in terms of attacking the great desire of members of the native community to have a larger role in governing themselves, as they have stated time after time.

Perhaps if this government listened to some of their concerns over issues like the Meech Lake accord and acted in response to them for a change, they would feel that in fact this government was taking some positive steps to really help that community achieve its long-term, large-scale goals, rather than three very minor projects.

Mr. Harris: I am surprised the minister took time today to review the details of the program. It is a program that has been in existence for quite some period of time. I do applaud the minister for making the three little announcements in the House, which are a small part of the program's activities throughout the year, because it helps to bring a number of members up to date on what is happening in native communities and on some of the types of projects that are going forward.

But I am surprised at the first half of the statement reviewing the whole program, because it then gets one to look at the program and what actually has happened since this government and this minister took over. He is proud of a \$5-million program, as if this is something new, \$5 million for natives. So you go and you see what happened, and you see that what they have done is they have flat-lined this program. This program had more than \$5 million in the budget last year.

Second, they underspent it by \$400,000 last year. Here is a program that has been working for a good period of time. It is one that works with native communities, one that was set up by the former government, but it is not a program that this government is particularly good on the record of having followed through with. The record of continuing to expand opportunities for native peoples throughout the community program does not look particularly good on this government.

When the minister talks about \$5 million, it allows me the opportunity to ask why he is flat-lining these budgets. Is he saying to us that everything is OK there now? Because the program has been in place for a number of years, are there no more problems on the native reservations throughout northern Ontario in particular? I can tell him the problems are getting worse. They need more help. They need more assistance, not a flat-lining of the budget, and a lot more than the three little announcements the minister has made today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health again. Now that the minister has admitted there is a problem at one hospital, which she indicated yesterday she was prepared to solve with a transfusion of several hundreds of thousands of dollars to the St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, I wonder if the minister can tell us what she is going to do for the McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay. Like St. Mary's hospital, it also has a regional role and also receives patients from all over northwestern Ontario, who if they do not go to McKellar General in Thunder Bay, have to go to Winnipeg, the United States or Toronto. It has had an operational study done by Stevenson Kellogg Ernst and Whinney, who have said that in their view the hospital is performing what they call an appropriate role.

Does the minister not realize that having admitted the unfairness of the announcement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in her actions with respect to St. Mary's, she is now going to be on the hook for dozens of hospitals across the province which are doing what they have to do in terms of providing care for patients, and that is why they are facing the financial difficulties they are facing?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me clarify for the Leader of the Opposition that the statement by the Treasurer was quite correct. There is no intention to pick up deficits across the board this year, as has been done in the past. In April 1987, the hospitals were notified that was not the case when they were given a one-time base adjustment. We have undertaken a review of about 22 hospitals; McKellar is among them. The intention of those reviews is to identify areas of chronic problems and to assist those hospitals to manage.

Mr. B. Rae: We have a situation now where every hospital administrator in the province saw

precisely what this government did. It realized it had made a mistake with respect to Timmins. The Timmins hospital announced some serious layoffs and the government scurried back and said: "No, no, no. We'll try to solve your problem." That is a precedent for every other hospital in the province and there is no way the government can get off the hook.

What is the minister going to do specifically with the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa, which has also announced that it may have to close 45 of 274 beds? The Touche Ross review said, "We believe that the Riverside is a well-managed hospital which has been able to control expenses and maintain a consistently high level of productivity under very tight operating conditions," despite which it now has a deficit of some \$1.4 million. Does the minister not think it is fair to do for Riverside what she did yesterday for St. Mary's?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, fairness is part of the approach we are taking. I have said on numerous occasions in this House that our intention is to make sure that when we approve a project and a budget for a hospital it has the resources we have committed in the approval of that program. We are reviewing at this particular time some 22 hospitals with chronic problems. As we identify programs which we have approved and not adequately funded, we will make base adjustments.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister keeps talking about it being a review for 21 or 22 hospitals. We assume that there were 22 before yesterday, and now it is 21. The government has given St. Mary's the money it needed so now we are down to 21.

I wonder if the minister can confirm that according to the Treasury's figures, there are in fact 90 hospitals which are expected to run a deficit this year and, in addition to that, there are hospitals which have not run a deficit which are going to have to cut in order to meet the ministry's prescribed straitjacketed rules which come from the Treasurer's budget.

Does the minister not understand that in every community in this province there are citizens who understand one thing: the Treasurer took money out of their pockets in terms of tax increases, and at the same time there are going to be cuts and changes and what she calls "realignments," which are really cuts in service, in literally every community across this province because of what she is doing to our hospitals and health care system?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Leader of the Opposition is not fairly presenting the picture. In fact, some 40 per cent of all the revenues raised in the Treasurer's budget is going to health care—40 per cent—and a full 33 per cent of the total budget is presently going to the Ministry of Health in support of our programs. What we are talking about now is our ability to plan appropriately and then manage the resources that the Treasurer has so generously given to health care in this province.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer who has consistently, over the last few days and few weeks, ruled out the possibility of a speculation tax on housing. Yet today, the Toronto Real Estate Board issued figures that show the average price for a resale home in the greater Metropolitan Toronto area is \$224,000, which is a 5.3 per cent increase in only one month—that is an average figure—which, if extrapolated over a year, would mean a 60 per cent increase over a year.

I wonder if the Treasurer can tell us why he is still so ideologically wedded to doing absolutely nothing to stop the speculation in land and speculation in housing which is causing, and indeed encouraging, these ridiculous increases in the prices of resale homes?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the members would be aware that the budget indicated there would be \$20 billion spent on new housing and improvements in housing in the private sector this year and that the budget allocates, for example, an additional \$2 billion in financing for nonprofit housing. We feel that improving the stock of housing with good policies on a broad basis is the best thing to do. Our experience with the land speculation tax has not been spectacular in this province. Although we never ruled out the possibility of something like that, and I never have, I do not feel it is appropriate right now.

1400

Mr. B. Rae: It is hard to know what it would take for it to be appropriate. The Treasurer was the person who, when Michael Wilson introduced his capital gains changes, said in this House quite specifically that in his view it would encourage speculation and it would encourage the possibility of people engaging in that kind of activity. That is precisely what has happened and when it happens the Treasurer is not prepared to do anything about it.

I wonder how the Treasurer feels about the recent study by the Canada Mortgage and

Housing Corp. which shows that with average housing prices of \$200,000, which is less than the \$224,000 figure I am quoting today, only three per cent of the current renter population could afford to buy a home in Metropolitan Toronto. How does the Treasurer feel about the fact that in 1988, three per cent of the people who are now renting are able to afford to buy a house?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think everybody understands that the Metropolitan Toronto area is rapidly growing, as is Ottawa-Carleton, some areas around London and some other parts of the province. I think the member is also aware that net immigration last year into the province was 110,000 and is expected to be 120,000 this year.

We feel with our present array of regulations and tax responses that we are meeting the requirement in as fair and equitable a way as could possibly be expected.

Mr. Breagh: I would like to ask the Deputy Premier (Mr. R. F. Nixon), since the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has ideologically rejected a land speculation tax, does he not realize that speculation in housing prices here in Metro is making a mockery of all of the government's housing programs? Why does the Treasurer not deal with speculation in the price of housing in the same way that the stock exchange deals with insider trading? Why does he not ban it totally?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: There will no doubt be some people, even in the constituency of Oshawa, who have bought and sold houses maybe once or twice in the last two years. The member might think that should be banned. I do not agree.

My own feeling is that when the honourable member says I am idealistically or ideologically opposed to a land speculation tax, that is not correct—it is he and his democratic socialists who are the ideologues who march in some glassy-eyed lockstep to the dictates of a socialist leader. That is not our way at all. We hope to be practical and pragmatic in meeting the needs of the community on the broadest possible basis and in a fair and equitable manner.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Minister of Health. Yesterday in the House the minister, speaking about the question of leaseback arrangements with various hospitals, indicated, and I will quote her statement, "the ministry at no time gave formal approval to hospitals using this funding arrangement."

If that is the case, can she then explain a memo that was sent out by the assistant deputy minister

in charge of institutional health dated June 3, 1987, which was sent to all hospital administrators outlining the steps to be taken by the hospitals if they wished to enter into leaseback arrangements? Why is there that anomaly between what the minister said and what her staff member has said?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact there is no anomaly. The ministry did not formally approve applications from hospitals to use this financing technique. The ministry had concerns and that memo was a result. They wanted the hospitals to be aware of the impact of these funding arrangements and to make sure that the funds generated were not used as part of the operation of the hospital.

Mr. Brandt: I find the answer passing strange because if final approval was not needed, then why did Mr. Reid, the assistant deputy minister, write, and again I quote, "hospitals contemplating sale/leaseback arrangements must provide... a written submission to the area team." I might add further with respect to this particular letter that those submissions were to include details such as the type of assets sold and the use of the sale proceeds and so on; in other words, what equipment was to be purchased, what equipment was to be sold.

If approvals were not needed or in fact were not given by her ministry, why were written submissions required, which seems to be rather unusual; and what role did the area teams play in the leaseback arrangements?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, the memo the member refers to was sent out as advice to the hospitals and an expression of concern. We greet the announcement of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) of a moratorium as an opportunity to review the practice of the past and determine what will be appropriate for the future.

Mr. Brandt: I want the minister to be very careful, as she always is, with the next question and the answer she gives me. Is the minister in fact standing in this House and saying that no letter was sent from any ministry official to a hospital administrator approving of a leaseback arrangement? I ask her to judge her words carefully, because if I can produce such a letter, contrary to what she has said in this House, is she prepared to stand and formally apologize to this House for any misinformation that she may have shared with us?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am always prepared to apologize to the House if I have in any way erred in giving information. However, the information

I have at this moment is that there was no formal approval process which ended in the ministry approving transactions of that nature; that there was correspondence with area teams which reviewed what the hospitals were doing; but that the ministry kept no records of the actual—and in fact it is the question the member asked yesterday—numbers of pieces of equipment or which hospitals did this, because it had no formal approval process in place.

We recognize there were a number of hospitals that did engage in this practice and will learn from their practice in the past and appreciate the opportunity that this moratorium presents to us.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Sarnia.

Mr. Brandt: The same minister, and perhaps a continuation of the discussion that we have going. I want to share with the minister a letter dated March 11, 1988, and I will quote, if I might, from the letter, which indicates something that I believe is quite contrary to what the minister has just stated with respect to the whole question of formal approvals and then the step that was taken by the Treasurer with respect to his moratorium on the whole leaseback arrangements.

The letter is written on Ministry of Health stationery, dated March 11, 1988, signed by the executive director, institutional division, seventh floor, 15 Overlea Boulevard, Toronto, Ontario. It says: "The northern area team has reviewed the proposal and I am pleased to advise you that approval is granted for you to proceed with the agreement."

I will quote further from the letter if the minister thinks I am quoting selectively. In my view, that is a formal approval of a request for a leaseback, and I will share this letter with her, but it certainly is contrary to what she has been indicating to this House.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The information that I have from the ministry is that it requested information from the hospitals regarding the type of asset, the type of equipment, the proceeds of the sale and the recognition that it would not be used for operating, the disposition of sale proceeds, terms of leaseback arrangements, annual costs of leaseback and the reasons for sale and leaseback arrangements, both advantages and disadvantages.

As far as I know, and I am always willing to receive information from the leader of the third party, there was no formal approval process in place. If he has information that the letter was sent out, I would be pleased to review it, but I

really consider it academic. The Treasurer has placed a moratorium. We are going to be learning from the practices of the past, and as I have said before, I am pleased to have the opportunity to review that.

Mr. Brandt: It is more than academic, and by way of supplementary to the minister, let me remind her again that she said, "The ministry at no time gave formal approval to hospitals using this funding arrangement." That is in Hansard. I have shared that quote with her again so that she knows exactly what she said.

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Another memo, if I might. This is dated March 15, 1988: "The eastern area team has reviewed the proposal and I am pleased to advise you that approval is granted for you to proceed with the agreement, subject to the following conditions." I could read the two conditions in here, if she would like; to save the time of the House, I will not do that.

Will the minister finally withdraw her words, and agree that in fact formal approval was given to these kinds of leasing-funding arrangements by her ministry?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Clearly, the leader of the third party has correspondence that suggests there was some form of approval. I tell him that it was not formal or authorized, as far as I know, but if that is the case, I do not see that there is a problem. We are now in a situation where we are reviewing past practices and determining what is an appropriate course of action for the future.

Mr. Brandt: Very, very difficult. Let me read further from the letter of March 15:

"I am replying to your letter concerning the sale and leaseback of a portion of the hospital's equipment.

"The eastern area team has reviewed the proposal and I am pleased to advise you that approval is granted for you to proceed with the agreement, subject to the following conditions:

"1. Should any of the information as outlined in your letter change substantially in the final arrangement, the ministry would want to review the changes.

"2. The ministry receive from the hospital a letter stating that no 'building systems' are included in the \$13,025.00 figure shown as 'various other equipment and building systems.'"

It very clearly outlines the steps to be taken by way of memo from her ministry to this hospital, and then a response back from her ministry says "These are the conditions under which we will

allow a leaseback." Will the minister finally indicate to this House and clarify for the hospitals across this province exactly what her policy was, and that policy, I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, was to allow leasebacks that the Treasurer has now indicated—

Mr. Speaker: Order; the question has been asked. The minister.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Perhaps a definition will help the leader of the third party of what I consider formal approval: That is a letter signed by the minister. There is no such letter. There is no formal approval.

RICHMOND HILL LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: It is obvious that Carnac needs a new cue card, but my question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

Section 10 of the Municipal Affairs Act gives power to the ministry so that, "The ministry upon its own initiative may make an inquiry into any of the affairs of a municipality." I know the minister not only has read, as we all have read, of the specific statements made today in the Toronto Globe and Mail with respect to the town of Richmond Hill, but also will have read of other speculation—if I may use that word—activities in the town involving land transactions.

I wonder if the minister can tell us whether he has any concerns about any of these transactions and whether it is his intention to launch an inquiry under section 10 of the Municipal Affairs Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I understand there is an Ontario Provincial Police investigation into certain allegations made in that community. I might say that some time ago our ministry received a petition for an inquiry into the affairs of that community. We have appointed an independent individual to look into the administrative practices of that community and we are awaiting that report at this time.

Mr. B. Rae: Perhaps the minister can tell us who this individual is. Perhaps he could tell us under what section of the Municipal Affairs Act, or indeed any other piece of legislation, this individual has been appointed. Perhaps he can tell us what the terms of reference are with respect to this investigation. I am sure the minister would agree that this is the first he has indicated publicly in the House that such an investigation is taking place.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This is an internal investigation. It was prompted by Wilfrid Death, a ratepayer in the town of Richmond Hill. It was supported by a petition of ratepayers. He has

asked the minister to investigate alleged irregularities in the town's method of dealing with and accumulating the property for a proposed industrial development in the town. Our ministry has engaged a consultant, Fred Hamblin, who is reviewing the matter and will report back to our ministry.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. In light of her apparent reversal in the deficit situation at St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, hospitals across this province deserve a clear and definitive answer as to where she and her government stand on this issue. The message that she is putting out is, at best I think, uncertain and has somewhat confused the hospital administrators.

To date, she has not met with the Ontario Hospital Association to discuss deficit reviews; yet these reviews were completed on March 31, about a month and a half ago. Does every hospital that has a deficit have to announce the closing of beds and the laying off of staff so that it will not have a deficit before she and her ministry will sit down and discuss its situation?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The process for the reviews is very clear; I announced it some time ago. We are conducting a review of 22 hospitals that have had repeated deficits. Those reviews are now complete. They are within the ministry, and we are conducting a review of those reviews to determine what common chronic problems there may be. As well, while that is going on, the ministry is working with individual hospitals to review their situations and to ensure that wherever we have approved a program, there has been an acknowledgement of that in the base.

Mr. Eves: We saw the case of St. Mary's, where, some three days after they announced that they were going to close beds and lay off staff, her officials cannot get up there quickly enough to try to remedy the situation. Today we spoke to the administrator of the Brantford General Hospital, who said that their board of directors had met once this week and will be meeting again next Monday to discuss the options available to them. However, the administrator did say that in order for them to achieve a balanced budget, he did not see any way around cutting beds and having layoffs.

It is obvious that her across-the-board refusal to fund deficits is not going to work. Will she make a commitment to this House today that she will fund the deficits of hospitals across this province which run efficiently and strive to meet

the health care needs of the people in this province yet receive inadequate base funding from her ministry?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Meetings with officials in the ministry to review the review of those 22 hospitals are already going on. In fact, the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Nurses' Association and the Ontario Medical Association are involved in assisting us.

We believe that the hospitals all have an important role to play. We have recognized that where we have approved a program, there may be some base adjustments necessary. We do recognize, on the other hand, that there are opportunities for efficiencies within the system, and we intend to work very closely with the hospitals to assist them to achieve those efficiencies.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Mr. Tatham: I have a question for the Minister of Energy. A recent report states that business in the United States stands to keep large economic and competitive benefits by using less electricity, as utilities pay for innovative energy efficiency programs. For the utilities, the aim of these programs is to put off construction of new, expensive power plants. One utility, Wisconsin Power and Light Co., says it costs the utility \$750,000 to purchase a kilowatt through increased efficiency, while a kilowatt from a new coal-fired power plant costs about \$1,100. Has Ontario Hydro a program of conservation like that?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I thank the honourable member for his interest in this matter. Ontario Hydro does have an incentive program similar to this one. Its major emphasis is on the subject of energy conservation and cogeneration. Ontario Hydro offers grants and low-interest loans to industrial users of electricity to encourage them to use electricity more efficiently. This is a \$250-million program, to be expended over a four-year period. So consistent with Ontario's energy policy, we want our industrial and other users of electricity to use it wisely and efficiently.

Mr. Tatham: Should we study the energy savings and payback of electrification of our rail lines from Windsor to Montreal?

Hon. Mr. Wong: On that specific subject, a study was done by the federal government and our Ministry of Transportation four to five years ago. What the study concluded was that this would not be a viable option, because it was not cost-effective. While no future studies are

planned at this time, I will look into the matter with my officials and report any findings to the honourable member.

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HOME CARE

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I have 20 letters in my hand from homemakers across the province saying that they cannot hang in there and provide service on the low wages that his government's grants allow.

For example, this is from Millgrove, Ontario: "I am an employee with the Dundas Red Cross. I enjoy helping people, making it possible for them to remain and function in their own homes. Homemakers provide this much-needed service to many, saving money by keeping people out of nursing homes, hospitals, etc. This money should be put towards paying the homemakers responsible for this saving a decent wage."

It is because women like this cannot afford to continue as homemakers that the service this government funds is in a state of crisis. When and how is the minister going to respond to this woman and others like her in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The review that we recently completed indicates that the length of time people are staying on homemakers' service is about double what we anticipated. Therefore, we are not able to spread the funds that we have available as far as we would like.

We have indicated clearly to the various organizations that have participated with us that we will be making some movement, but it is probably not going to be as much as they are asking for.

Mr. Allen: There are 5,600 letters exactly like this that were deposited on the desk of the Premier just the other day, bearing exactly this same message. The report of the interministerial committee, as the minister well knows, bears them out exactly. Yet the word from the minister's office is that he cannot decide whether to: (1) pay decent wages; (2) maintain the level of existing service programs; or (3) expand to the 10 new centres the minister promised for last year.

If the minister and the Premier are really committed to this cornerstone of community health care, surely they must do all three. How can they do less? Will the minister not make that commitment today?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I can advise the honourable member that we will not be able to do all three. We are clearly faced with making a choice, and I expect that the choice will be made very

soon. We simply do not have the resources to do all three.

STATUS OF CIVIL SERVANT

Mr. Runciman: My question is for the Minister of Financial Institutions. Can he explain the rather mysterious circumstances surrounding the announced end-of-May departure of Don Reid from his position as director of the loan and trust corporations branch of the ministry? Did the minister participate in discussions surrounding Mr. Reid's departure? Would the minister also advise us of the terms of that departure?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: No, I did not. I cannot advise the honourable member of the terms, but I will provide them to the honourable member.

Mr. Runciman: That is another case in point of this minister delegating that whole ministry to other individuals and not keeping on top of what is happening over there.

The minister should be aware that Mr. Reid, just a few short months ago, gave a clean bill of health to Financial Trust, a subsidiary of Financial Trust Co., and that Mr. Reid has accepted a senior position with another Financial Trust Co. subsidiary, Morgan Trust Co. of Canada. He also should know that Mr. Reid, in his current position, has access to information of the most confidential nature for every trust company in Ontario, the profitability of branches—

Mr. Ferraro: Why don't we have him shot?
[Laughter]

Mr. Runciman: That is the way to treat it, with contempt.

Mr. Reid has access to the most confidential information, the profitability of branches, lists of personnel, employee assessments and on and on. Talk about insider information.

I will ask one question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thought you had asked about four there.

Mr. Runciman: I have not asked one question there, Mr. Speaker.

Will the minister tell us why this man remains on the job and what safeguards and guarantees the minister has put in place to ensure that confidential information is not used to advantage—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I indicated to the honourable member that I would give him an indication of what the terms of Mr. Reid's departure are. We have no rule that requires people to continue working for their whole career with the government of Ontario, and when they

leave our jurisdiction, this is a free country and they can work as they see fit and where they see fit.

ELGIN-WINTER GARDEN THEATRE

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Culture and Communications. It relates to the Elgin-Winter Garden theatre. With regard to this complex, there has been no debate: It is a good heritage building, it has a fine history and it is the only remaining stacked theatre left in the world.

However, there is a debate out there where they are saying that we have approached the restoration of this complex in a way which has not been dealing with the realities of theatre and its needs and demands today. There is a criticism that the ministry has put a lot of money, many hundreds of thousands of dollars, into the restoration where it will not be practical for the use of travelling musicals or other productions.

What does the minister have to say with regard to the criticism? Are the critics correct?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Owen: Have we thrown away our money, or is the theatre going to be a viable alternative for us?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I think that the concerns of the theatrical and cultural community are worthy of consideration and have been considered by the ministry. We took a look at all those issues when we performed a feasibility study. As we were entering into the construction and renovation stage, we continued to get concerns voiced by the community—about the stage size, for example. I think that seems to be the major criticism.

The Ontario Heritage Foundation commissioned a study and, while holding the project, took a look at all the historical theatres right across North America and some in Great Britain. It found that the 30 feet, which consists of the stage house, was more than adequate for historical theatre. In addition, though, our plans call for the raising of the orchestra stage to add another 12 feet, if desired.

The member should know also that the problem with the theatre as it existed was that there were no wings and very little room for dressing or any other function. We have now looked at that.

Mr. Owen: I am sure all the members know that this theatre complex is in fact owned by us, the people of Ontario, by way of the Ontario Heritage Foundation. We have a great deal at stake in this theatre and its development. I am asking the minister, is it possible for us as

members to have access, to look at what we are investing in and to see the progress or the lack of progress that is taking place in this development?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: Yes, it is possible for every member of this Legislature to take a tour of the Elgin-Winter Garden renovation complex. In fact, I think tours are already in hand, on Wednesday or any other day that is appropriate to the member. I think the member will find, as will any other citizen in Ontario, that this is a worthwhile investment.

In talking to Marlene Smith on the day the announcement of the operator was established, she being the operator, she confided—and it was a very open confidence, right across to everybody in the province—not only that the stage was adequate for contemporary theatre, but that indeed she was very proud to place \$1 million into the project. I think if an operator is willing to come in as partner with the taxpayers, as the member so well put it, the success of that project is already in hand.

TEMAGAMI DISTRICT RESOURCES

Mr. Wildman: I have a question of the Minister of Natural Resources. I think most members of the House would agree that the Temagami Area Working Group was a failure, in that the 15 members and the chairman produced five different reports about what should be done in the Temagami area.

Since it did not work out and just meant that the government was able to dither for a number of months more before deciding what to do in the Temagami area, can the minister confirm that he will recommend a full environmental assessment hearing on the whole Temagami forest area affected by the proposed roads so it can be determined once and for all whether there should be a buffer zone around the provincial park and, if so, what its size should be and what measures must be taken to keep both the forestry and tourism jobs in the area.

1430

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, I reacted immediately when there was a suggestion that I might have been quite upset that there was not a conclusion made by all the people who participated with Mr. Daniel in formulating the report to me on the Temagami problem. It really only pointed out that it is very difficult to have any number of people come to a conclusion.

The former minister delivered that kind of a message, but we know now that there was no conclusive evidence that everyone had agreed. So he is just pointing up that those people who

have those kinds of commitments and commissions to perform have as much difficulty as governments do coming to a conclusion that is going to protect all of the people who are interested in that area.

I would like to share with the honourable member that I do propose to do everything I can to address all of the users of the area, whether they be people who want to have the enjoyment of a wilderness experience, the loggers or the tourism people. All of those things are being taken into account. I am sure the member, because he is very interested and is from the area, is going to be pleased with the conclusion we come to and put before this assembly.

Mr. Wildman: I think the minister said he was going to do everything possible and we would be pleased. Since the minister is aware that the lumber being cut by Consolidated Bathurst just east of Highway 11 near Cobalt, just 40 miles from Temagami, is being hauled to a mill near Arnprior, some 200 miles away, will the minister commit to reallocating timber licences in the Temagami area, something his ministry evidently told Mr. Daniel it was possible to do, so that no more roads or road extensions will be required in the Temagami area and so that the jobs in the sawmills in the area can be maintained?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That is a real contradiction of terms. He does not want to build any roads, he wants to stop us and he does not want us to haul too great a distance. The reason to build roads is to take the shortest possible distance from the harvesting of logs and to look at regeneration and all of the important things the roads provide. What we are saying is that there has been an intrusion on the area, a hold on some of the roads, and there has been difficulty in drawing the lumber a greater distance. I admit that is the case.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Obviously, the member does not want to hear the answer, which is OK with me. The fact of the matter is that I have inherited a very difficult situation. I am hopeful that where saner heads prevail, we are going to come out of this with a very good answer.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister of Education. It is now public knowledge that he and his ministry directly intervened in the Toronto school space negotiations which resulted in the announcement last Friday. In Hamilton,

the public school board is willing to come back to the table and to meet with him, but the separate school board has indicated it does not wish to.

Will the minister intervene, just the way he did in Metro, to bring both sides back to the table, or will we have one standard for Toronto and a different standard for Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am delighted to indicate to the member that I would be happy to participate in any discussions on the same basis as those that were used in Metropolitan Toronto.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased that the minister has changed his position to "on the same basis" because, as he well knows, his staff was notified today of the Hamilton board's willingness to meet with him as quickly as possible to discuss that very point of reopening those negotiations. As the minister well knows, we had a situation in Metro Toronto where he dispatched his assistant deputy minister, a senior civil servant, to go and talk to the separate board and bring it to the bargaining table.

In light of the approach to the minister from Hamilton and in order that he does not create a double standard, will he summarily dispatch his representative to the Hamilton separate board and bring it to the bargaining table as well?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am quite pleased to indicate to the member that I will deal with both parties similarly, but on the same basis as that used in Metropolitan Toronto, which I have indicated from the outset.

The member should be aware that the basics on which those negotiations proceeded were ones by which both parties were willing to enter into discussions for a long-term resolution and that there was a recognition on the part of the parties as to their obligations under Bill 30. If both parties are willing—my position has never changed—I would be quite happy to discuss it with them. My door is always open, as the member knows.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Mr. Callahan: My question is to the Premier. Some time ago I addressed a question to a minister in the House with reference to the problem we have with food banks.

In my own community, Ste. Louise Outreach Centre has been required to move four times. Each time they find accommodation, it is only short-term and then they have to move on. I have had further discussions with those ministers and I have also discussed it with other people. It would appear that a permanent solution to the problem is not as easy as perhaps I had originally thought.

I am asking the Premier—

Interjections.

Mr. Callahan: The New Democratic Party, I guess, is not interested in the question of whether or not people have enough to eat.

Mr. Speaker: And the question?

Mr. Callahan: In light of the serious nature of the problem and that the problem is going to get more serious, quite obviously, as the cost of housing and so on goes up, would the Premier consider discussing with his cabinet colleagues the question of having some type of group take evidence as to what could be a permanent solution to that problem?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I apologize to my honourable friend; I am not familiar with the specifics of it, but I will certainly take up a discussion with the minister responsible.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Swart: My question is to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and it pertains to the bereavement sector. He will know that I disclosed contents of the Turner report to this House some five months ago. If, as a new minister, he did not know before that time about the despicable tactics of certain commercial cemeteries, he knew it then.

According to an article in the *Hamilton Spectator* last month, he is conducting another investigation into the bereavement sector and it is under way. That article quotes him as saying that essentially he has reached the same conclusions, that there are problems still ongoing.

Let me ask the minister, now that his government has been dithering on this matter for almost three years, will he give a commitment to this House today that he will table legislation to clean up this swamp in his ministry before this House recesses for the summer?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I note with interest the speed and the direction with which we are proceeding with legislation. I am not sure perhaps when the summer will come, but I say to the honourable member that he will know, and I have indicated to him privately and am pleased to indicate to the House publicly, that we are working very actively in this area and that I expect to bring recommendations before my cabinet colleagues for their consideration in the very near future.

Obviously, as the member will know, when matters come before cabinet for its consideration, it sometimes goes very quickly and sometimes it goes a little more slowly. There are a number of committees that need to have

discussions. I cannot give him a commitment as to a timetable other than to say that we are working very actively in this very important area which, I agree with the member, is in need of a solution as soon as possible.

Mr. Swart: Unfortunately, that almost identical answer was given to this House by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations a year and a half and two years ago.

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The minister will know that one of the worst practices of the commercial cemeteries is in selling. I have a letter here, and I would like to send a copy over to the minister, from Mr. and Mrs. Morra of 390 Glendale Avenue in St. Catharines. Perhaps I can just quote a couple of sentences from it. It says:

“Our infant son passed away the middle of October. Within two weeks, the first call came, the woman identifying herself as being from Highway 20 in Fonthill. On three separate occasions during the following few weeks, calls were received from callers, all identifying themselves as being from Memorial Gardens.”

Then she says this: “I cannot begin to express the state of our household, our mental state at that time, but I can say these phone calls were often devastating. I hope and pray that our son’s death will at least have been of some value if it enables us to help in our small way to arrest this practice.”

Can I ask the minister how he can permit these kinds of practices to continue? Before the summer recess, if he cannot bring in the comprehensive bill, will he table a very simple bill to prevent all cemeteries from soliciting by phone or from door to door?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I certainly understand the importance of trying to deal with this issue once and for all and indicating how we are going to treat this very sensitive area. The member is not incorrect when he suggests that in this field there is perhaps a greater sensitivity which ought to be shown in terms of dealing with—if I can call them the unhappy term—consumers.

We are looking at the options that are available to us as a government. I can say to the honourable member without any fear of contradiction that there have been some abuses of consumers in this province in the past and some in the not-too-recent past. Quite frankly, they are not very pleasing to me or to the ministry, and we are analysing ways and methods by which we can best resolve those abuses and yet let the businesses carry on in a responsible fashion.

PLANT CLOSURES

Mr. McLean: My question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Does the minister have any alternative investors lined up to fill the gap when the Greening Donald plant closed in Midland? Is Midland-Penetang one of his top priorities?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: There are various areas in Ontario where have had plant closings, and all of the officials call me and ask if they are at the top of the list. I can tell the member that what we do is to make available to employers, through our offices throughout the world, the locations that are available and the skills of the workers in the area, and we try to encourage any of the inquirers that we contact to go to those areas that have had a dislocation because of a plant closing.

In response to the member's question, I can tell him we are aware of the situation; we direct people there; and it is included in a group of municipalities that we do that for.

Mr. McLean: Yesterday in the Legislature, the minister had indicated: "I think the member should know that what we try to do is apprise anyone looking to establish an industrial facility to go to communities in Ontario, and"—he indicated—"Brantford is one that we have at the top of our list. We have several other communities that we also encourage manufacturers to go."

If the minister has a list of communities, I would like to see it and I would like to ask him if Midland, Penetanguishene and Orillia are included in that list.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure members know that we really have no control over where a private sector company goes. The only way we can exercise any kind of control is if they come to the government for funding. What we do is we make the message loud and clear. If they want to locate in an area where we feel there is no economic activity stimulation needed, we do not provide any funding. On the other hand, if they will go to an area that has had either a dislocation or that has no industry, we are prepared to provide government funding, provided they can make the business case.

We are aware of all of the communities that have had dislocations; we are conscious of them; and we use our best efforts to see if we can get other companies to locate there.

ACID RAIN

Mr. Black: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. He will be aware that recently the Prime Minister and the federal government

again fumbled the ball when it came to an environmental issue.

I am referring of course to the fact that Prime Minister Mulroney for the third time came up empty-handed in his attempts to negotiate any kind of an acid rain abatement program with President Reagan. Can the Minister of the Environment for Ontario do anything to pick up the slack that has been left by our federal government?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: That is a good question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the minister have an answer?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I would have thought that one of the two opposition leaders would have asked that question today, but they did not.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I think the thrust that has to be taken—and there was agreement at the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers at our last annual meeting—is that there should be a concerted effort on the part of all provinces that have a specific interest in acid rain to communicate this to the people in the United States.

The Prime Minister met with the President. He met also with certain members of the United States Congress. We happen to believe this is the most productive way of dealing with this problem. In fact, I had the opportunity as well to meet with members of the Congress.

Mr. Brandt: Tell us about the results.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I want to tell the leader of the third party and all members of the House that they were very much persuaded by the arguments put forward by Ontario. They stated that if only the federal government had taken a very high profile and strong stance at each of the summits, they could have persuaded Congress to enact the kind of legislation which is necessary to meet the same requirements that we in Canada, particularly eastern Canada, have met.

I am confident, or at least optimistic, that as we see progress coming from those members who are there, and further members, we will see results—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary?

Mr. Black: I know the minister was attempting to be brief. In his attempts to be brief, he perhaps did not give as complete an answer as I might otherwise have anticipated. The people of Canada feel that acid rain and the question of the environment is the number one problem in this country. I would point out to him that two recent studies have indicated that the damage to our

health, to the buildings of this country, to the forests and to the lakes continues to mount.

Mrs. Marland: Is this a speech or a question?

Mr. Brandt: Save the environment. Stop Bradley from speaking.

Mr. Black: This is a serious problem, although our friends on the opposition benches apparently do not realize it.

Mr. Speaker: The question would be?

Mr. Black: My supplementary question to the minister is, are there any specific initiatives which his ministry can undertake in the immediate future to try to remedy this problem?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: One of the initiatives—

Mr. B. Rae: This is T-ball; it is ridiculous.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: If the Leader of the Opposition wishes to ask a question as well, he will have the opportunity. I know he is sorry he did not ask this question.

One of the initiatives that can be taken, which I do not really think solves the problem—and I have heard this advocated on a number of occasions—is to get into a mammoth program of liming lakes. The reason that is not as productive as we would like, is that we believe that getting at acid rain at its source is the answer.

That is why we have in Ontario the toughest regulation found anywhere in North America, which will result in a 67 per cent cut by 1994 in the four major sources and, overall in Ontario, a 60 per cent cut. We have not specified the kind of technology to be used, but rather, the limits, and we have active enforcement.

1450

SALARIES OF WATER-BOMBER PILOTS

Mr. Hampton: My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources, if we could have the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) finish his speech. The Minister of Natural Resources last week reported to the House on the Kenora 14 fire and stated in his report that the province may be facing a terrible fire season. He also indicated the importance of the CL-215 water bombers in fighting forest fires. Then he said the province is one of the best equipped to fight forest fires in Canada.

I got a different story when I talked to the pilots. When I talked to them, I learned that a water-bomber pilot paid by the Ministry of Natural Resources is paid approximately \$21,000 a year. Yet the same water-bomber pilot, if he is flying for the Quebec government, the Manitoba government or the Saskatchewan government, is paid approximately \$50,000 a

year. In fact, many of the people who are employed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as CL-215 water-bomber pilots are actively thinking of leaving the service because they are not paid enough.

Mr. Speaker: And now for the question.

Mr. Hampton: If we are the best prepared province, what is the minister doing to look into that situation and deal with it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I suspect there are two distinctly different questions there. One is that the member is questioning whether we have enough water-bombers and whether they are in the air doing their job. I want to tell that member that they are at all times. I take a great deal of pride that we now have nine CL-215 water-bombers in the fleet. I want to tell the members something, particularly the members on that side. We have two water-bombers because the Minister of the Environment stopped them from buying a jet for the former Premier. No one else in this House can take that credit.

The other observation I would like to make is that there is no province I would like to offend by saying that we are as good as there is, because we solved the problem across this country. We have a central organization in Winnipeg that controls the CL-215 bombers. The member from the area just told the members that they came in from Quebec. They come from Manitoba. We have no problem putting our water-bombers in the air. We are as good as there is in the country and better than most.

Mr. Hampton: I want to thank the minister for his nonanswer. He indicated in his report to this House, in his statement last week, that we face a very serious fire situation in the forests. He also has to deal with the question of the disparity in pay. Forest fire pilots in Ontario are being grossly underpaid compared to other provinces. In fact, I wonder if the minister can confirm that since 1983, 12 of the most experienced Ministry of Natural Resources pilots have left either to go to other provinces where they are paid more or to go into the commercial airline business. Can the minister confirm that? I ask him again, what is the minister going to do about the disparity in pay problem?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: There are many avenues we pursue to make certain our aircraft are in the air when they are needed. I will not suggest to the member—

Mr. Reville: Autopilots?

Interjection

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We have not, it seems to me, had a problem getting pilots to get our aircraft out there to fight forest fires. Do the members not understand that? That is a simple answer to a simple question. We do not have a problem. If the member wants to encourage our water-bomber pilots to ask for more money, that is a legitimate suggestion, but he is making a grave mistake when he ties that together with whether that stops us from putting the water bombers in the air. That is grossly unfair and he knows it.

The other comment I must make is—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: The member should just be quiet for a minute and I will give him the answer.

We do not have a problem getting people.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The time for oral questions has expired.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. Pollock: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: I have a letter in my possession which says an interministerial report on conservation authorities was presented to the government caucus on April 25.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order?

Mr. Pollock: We all were elected on September 10. Why do we not all get to share that report? That is the point of privilege.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is the Speaker's responsibility to listen to a member but I cannot hear a thing. What was the point of order or point of privilege?

Mr. Pollock: We all should share and be able to get that ministerial report. Is there just supposed to be one party here?

Mr. Speaker: I suggest that would make a very good question for question period tomorrow.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, I think it is a point of privilege. If we could get the information, as 94 members of the House have the information, we could read it and I think we would have some good questions to ask, but the information is not being shared with members of the House the way it should be. If a report is ready, it should be tabled in the House, and that is a matter of privilege. I realize all you can do is bring it to the

minister's attention. We are attempting to do that and we request that you do so.

Mr. Speaker: I believe it has been brought to the minister's attention now, twice.

PETITIONS

GREENACRES HOME FOR THE AGED

Mr. Beer: I have a petition here from a group known as Greenacres for Seniors. The petition reads as follows and it is signed by some 80 persons:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the constitutional right of all senior citizens to have access to a health care facility that is appropriate to their needs; and

"Whereas Greenacres Home for the Aged in Newmarket, Ontario, is one of the few health care facilities that can safely provide care for the wandering, cognitively impaired older person;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to call on the government to resolve the issue regarding the future operation of Greenacres in order that admissions can begin immediately to alleviate community stress resulting from long waiting lists for long-term care facilities and decrease the number of inappropriate accommodations in acute care hospital beds of cognitively impaired elderly."

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Cureatz: I want to remind all those frisky Liberal back-benchers that there is a time they are going to have to face and it concerns a petition—

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is petition time and I am sure, as a former presiding officer, you are aware of the standing orders. Please present your petition.

Mr. Cureatz: I was just trying to slip in a quick shot.

Here it is, for the folks at home. I have a petition signed by 2,000 irate taxpayers in Ontario which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

This brings to a total of 3,000—not 1,000, not 2,000, but 3,000—petitions submitted in opposition to the budget.

1500

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Black: I have a petition from 35 constituents.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

I am pleased to add my name to that.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that Mr. Keyes and Mr. Velshi exchange places in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

MINING AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved first reading of Bill 132, An Act to amend the Mining Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes certainly have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have an explanation?

Hon. Mr. Conway: A very brief explanation for you, Mr. Speaker, and particularly for my friend the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren).

This bill contains three minor amendments which will ensure more efficient administration of the Mining Act by mining recorders across the province.

The first amendment will allow the recorders to correct records of mining claims technically in danger of forfeiture as a result of new interpretations of the act. The second amendment will allow regulations to be made to prescribe the types of documents that may be filed in the recorder's office by electronic means. The third amendment will replace the previous provisions requiring the use of registered mail with ones allowing the use of certified mail.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION TO SET ASIDE
ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Reville moved that pursuant to standing order 37(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that being the government's continued failure to provide funding for community-based alternatives, which would relieve some of the pressure on hospitals, while at the same time announcing cutbacks at 22 community hospitals with budget deficits, which will result in longer waiting lists for needed surgery and more use of emergency rooms and hallways to accommodate patients who need to be admitted to hospital.

Mr. Speaker: Notice of the motion was received at 5:25 yesterday afternoon in my office. Therefore, it was received in time and is in order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes, as well as representatives from the other parties.

Mr. Reville: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know you will listen carefully because the emergency is now one day more severe than it was yesterday. It is too bad the government had so little cognizance of that fact that it used its massive majority to shut down what should be discussed in this House; that is, a serious problem in the health care system.

The nature of the emergency is of one of two types. We have a bunch of guys sitting around the cabinet table pretending to deal with the health care crisis, and the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. Elston) over there, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) who does not have enough nerve to be in the chamber, the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) who does not have enough nerve to be in the chamber and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) who does not have enough nerve to be in the chamber, decided either to perpetrate a big hoax on the people of Ontario by putting out a false rumour that hospitals were going to be cut back, thus engendering fear in 22 communities, which I think is a cynical kind of approach—we saw what happened yesterday; a number of members of the opposition raised the attack the government made on the hospital in Timmins; the government collapsed and delivered wheelbarrows full of money to the Timmins hospital in a gigantic display of cynical ad hockery—or if the government is not being cynical, the government clearly does not know what on earth it is doing at all about the health care system.

There are some members of my caucus who believe the latter is the case, that this government

is bereft of clues what to do with the health care system, except for a couple of lessons it perhaps learned at the feet of the previous government; that is, whatever you do, do not rattle the cage of the Ontario Medical Association. No, no; attack some community hospitals, which are trying their best to provide services under difficult conditions for their communities. Perhaps they are better to attack because they do not have nearly the kind of lobby group the OMA has.

Is that what the government is doing? If that is the case, there is another reason we have an emergency in health care. We have a government that is prisoner of one section of the health care system, a government that has decided to give \$4 billion a year to one small part of the health care system, and so requires a scapegoat and has decided that 22 community hospitals should be that scapegoat so that it can put out the message to the people of Ontario that this is a government that believes in fiscal responsibility.

We have seen in fact how serious that belief is. The first bit of heat and the Minister of Health runs for cover. She gets out of the kitchen lickety-split and a wheelbarrow full of money goes up to Timmins. Well, there are 21 other hospitals that are under threat. They are under the same threat because they have been designated scapegoats by this government. That is an emergency, Mr. Speaker.

It is not at all appropriate to target hospitals as the problem in our health care system when in fact the government has refused in the years it has been the government to do anything to take the pressure off those hospitals. It allows inappropriate use of beds in hospitals. Chronic patients are using acute care beds. Acute care patients are blocking the aisles of emergency departments. People are sitting at home waiting to get into hospital to have much needed surgery. People are stuck in nursing homes who could be better taken care of at home. Visiting homemakers are paid starvation wages, and of course do not much thrive on those kinds of wages, so we have an incredible turnover in our community care services, which continues to put pressure on those very hospitals this government has seen fit to attack.

If there were ever a reason for an emergency debate in this House, I can think of no better one than this government's failure to deal with the very serious problems it has allowed to emerge in the health care system. I know my colleagues to the physical left of me will speak in support of this, and one hopes that the Chairman of

Management Board has today got his wits about him.

Mr. Eves: It gives me pleasure to rise and support the motion put forward today by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville). Since June 1987, the Ministry of Health has released three separate reports which all recommend improvements to community-based health care in the province of Ontario.

The Podborski report was commissioned in October 1984 and completed in November 1987. It was to recommend ways in which the Minister of Health could become more actively involved in programs of health promotion. The recommendations were that the ministry should improve its community health programs and increase the budget of these programs by one per cent of the total Ministry of Health budget. The cost of that report was \$297,700. Action to date: the report is being considered by the Premier's Council on Health Strategy.

1510

I might also note that the budget of the community-based portion of the Ministry of Health went from 4.1 per cent to 4.2 per cent. I do not believe that is implementing the recommendations of the Podborski report.

The Evans report: commissioned in October 1986; completed June 1986. Mandate: to review the health status of Ontario's residents and the health care system in Ontario. Recommendations: that the ministry establish a Premier's health council to review the report and make recommendations for the future of health care in Ontario. The cost of that: \$422,900. Action to date: the Premier's Council on Health Strategy was formed some six months ago.

The Spasoff report: appointed November 1986; completed September 1987. Mandate: to provide advice to the minister regarding health goals for Ontario. The minister was looking for a common framework based on measures of health status for policy in program planning and health. Recommendations: the committee established seven broad goals for the Ministry of Health and recommended that the ministry form a health goals branch and that the minister report regularly to the Legislature on the status of those goals. Cost: \$205,600. Action to date: that report, too, is being reviewed by the Premier's health council. Busy, busy people on the Premier's health council; they are reviewing reviews. Of course, it is costing the taxpayers of Ontario hundreds of thousands of dollars for each of these reports, but, what the heck.

During the election, the Premier announced a \$100-million health innovation fund to be allocated to programs which emphasize community care rather than institutional health care. In November, the speech from the throne stressed the need for more community-based and health promotion programs. As evidence of the government's commitment to community care, it announced the Premier's health council to oversee future health care plans for the province.

The membership of the council was announced in December; not much more has happened from the council, except that we do know, through some subversive methods, that they are indeed considering raising OHIP premiums as one of the ways of meeting health problems in Ontario.

All health care service providers are expecting big things from this council. The council will approve all the programs which will use the health innovation fund, as well as review the three reports released since June 1987.

Although there has been a lot of talk to date, there has been no action regarding the health innovation fund, the reports or the Premier's health council, which is reviewing the reports. We have a few suggestions for the government. The government could move towards an expansion of full community health service centres and health service organizations to encourage the establishment of nonemergency clinics attached to hospitals and staffed by general practitioners from the community. These initiatives would go a long way towards achieving cost-effectiveness in the health care system. The government could direct more resources to community-based health care, day programs and regional geriatric assessment units in an effort to keep seniors healthier at home and alleviate the pressure on hospital beds. The government could give district health councils an expanded role in determining how health care dollars are spent. District health councils know what their communities need in terms of new medical equipment, hospital beds and home care services.

Those are but three suggestions. Instead, what we find is a system where people waiting for cardiovascular surgery are on a waiting list of one sort or another for anywhere between eight months and one year before they have surgery. The Minister of Health does not think that is very important; she does not even acknowledge it is a fact that the 18 cardiovascular surgeons operating in Metro Toronto alone say they have an average of one patient each per month who dies on the waiting list; 18 people a month in Metro

Toronto alone die on the waiting list, but the Minister of Health and this government—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired. Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have read with very great interest the motion that has been submitted by the member for Riverdale. While the motion is one of importance, in so far as the subject matter it concerns I have to say to my honourable friend that it is quite wide-ranging in terms of its scope. It looks like it was drafted with a view to cover something of the waterfront. I repeat that I do not want to suggest for a moment that this is—

Mr. Reville: Weight in votes. Weight there in the votes.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I say to my friend the member for Riverdale that this is a matter of importance. I certainly do not diminish that, but I want to recall to his attention, because not only is he the distinguished member for Riverdale but he is the whip of the official opposition—

Mr. Reville: I was not at that last meeting.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Well, I want to say to my honourable friends opposite that when the House leaders and whips met last Thursday, we discussed the business for this week. I think it was the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) who made—

Mr. Reville: How can you decide beforehand to deal with something that is an emergency?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Well, I want to make the argument, and I ask my reasonable friend from Riverdale to just listen to this.

Mr. Reville: I don't want to be accused of being reasonable.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just say that last week it was decided that we would proceed this week on Monday to do a budget debate, on Tuesday and Wednesday to do legislation and on Thursday to do the debate on the concurrence.

I submit to my friends opposite that those four days provide two days of very good debating opportunity to deal with the kind of health issues that are obviously of concern to the member for Riverdale and other members of the House. I simply have to say, as I listened to the submissions of the members opposite, that it seems to me those are perfectly good arguments to advance in a debate about concurrence or in the budget debate. As I listened to the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves), it certainly sounded to me like part of his concern was the budgetary policy of the government.

I just want to say that I will not be favouring this motion, not because we do not think it is important. Obviously, we would be quite happy to debate it. I suggest a more appropriate way to accommodate the interest of the House is to agree now to plan and proceed with this debate on the concurrence motion on Thursday.

With all due respect I think that, under our rules, provides the kind of latitude that honourable members would want.

I do not, for example, want to see the member for Riverdale restricted to a 10-minute articulation of his concern. I would rather he had somewhat more time—not an endless amount of time, obviously.

Mr. Reville: Your speech gets worse as it gets longer.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Pardon?

Mr. Reville: It gets worse as it gets longer. Ten minutes is enough.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I think there is an understanding on all sides that a debate about this subject would be useful. I am just simply suggesting that I do not believe this to be an emergency debate in the sense of our standing orders.

My friends opposite will disagree, but I think it is a reasonable point to suggest to my friends opposite that since we planned this week with two general debating days, much of which would be taken up by the opposition, one on the budget debate and one on estimates concurrence, let us proceed on the basis of that understanding. Let us do the legislation that we planned to do today and tomorrow, and let us on Thursday take up the concern of the member for Riverdale in what I think is, quite frankly, a more appropriate way, which allows honourable members on all sides to more appropriately plan for a debate that I know will be of real interest.

I say to my friends opposite that we are happy and anxious to debate this. I do not believe it to be an emergency in the sense of standing order 37, but I do admit that it is a subject that we would be very pleased to proceed with.

And my friend is right, the Speaker will decide.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Wouldn't want to interfere with any traditions around here.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have to say to the member for Windsor-Riverside that we discussed last Thursday the business of the House as to this week. We had, I thought, a very clear understanding of what an appropriate way to proceed would be.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: We never have emergency debates.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, I am not suggesting that we are not going to have emergency debates. The evidence clearly suggests otherwise.

Let us proceed this week in the way we planned, and let us deal with this matter on Thursday in what I expect will be a wide-ranging debate about the concurrence question.

1607

Mr. Speaker: I will now put the question; shall the debate proceed?

The House divided on whether the debate should proceed, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Cureatz, Eves, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McLean, Morin-Strom, Pollock, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Runciman, Sterling, Swart, Villeneuve, Wildman, Wiseman.

Nays

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bossy, Brown, Callahan, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Daigeler, Dietsch, Eakins, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Hart, Hosek, Kanter, Kerrio, Keyes, Kwinter, LeBourdais, Lipsett, Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrundola;

McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Offer, Oddie Munro, O'Neill, Y., Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, G., Poirier, Polsinelli, Poole, Ray, M. C., Reycraft, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Sola, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wilson, Wrye.

Ayes 31; nays 74.

1610

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EDUCATION STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

LOI MODIFIANT DES LOIS CONCERNANT L'ÉDUCATION

Hon. Mr. Ward moved second reading of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am pleased to move second reading of Bill 125. As you know, this bill provides a number of significant changes in how school board sizes are determined and in how board trustees are distributed to electoral areas.

These changes move us from our current system in which determinations of trustee distribution are based on assessment wealth to a new system in which trustee representation and trustee distribution will be based upon population.

I would like to recount for the members of this House the history of this bill. In response to concerns raised in the educational community about inconsistent methods of determining trustee representation, a study was conducted by the staff of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The resulting research brief entitled *Representing People* was released in November 1986. A joint committee on trustee representation was established by my colleague the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway) to consider the report and to provide a response to it. I would like to express once again my appreciation to the members of that joint committee for contributing to the foundation upon which we proceed today.

The bill which we have before us incorporates the principles put forward by that joint committee. Bill 125 establishes that population rather than assessment shall be the basis of the determination of a board's size as well as for the distribution of trustees to the municipalities and electoral areas of a board.

To replace the many different schedules that were previously used to determine board sizes across this province, Bill 125 includes one population schedule to apply to all the large single-tier school boards of Ontario.

In keeping with the recommendations of the joint committee, we have recognized a variety of special needs. We have provided for a minimum number of eight trustees for all boards in Ontario. We have retained provisions for native representation where applicable. We have maintained guarantees for minority-language governance.

As well, we have built into the changes a degree of flexibility to address concerns raised by members of the educational community. Boards will have the option, by a three-quarters vote, to increase or decrease the size of the board by one or two trustees. This flexibility responds to concerns expressed by several boards, especially those which operate on ward systems.

As I have pointed out to this House before, we have recognized also the special circumstances

of the two-tiered governance structure of the public boards of Metropolitan Toronto. This bill includes, for those boards, a schedule which is based directly on population. The schedule will also apply to the Metropolitan Toronto French-language school council. I believe that in introducing a population schedule to determine trustee representation in Metropolitan Toronto, we have been able to provide enough flexibility to minimize the changes that are required as a result of this initiative.

This bill also introduces a new method for determining the distribution of school trustees. Distributions will now be determined through a formula that will ensure that our trustees are distributed to represent the people of their particular electoral group. This method of distribution, which is based on population, will replace current methods which are based on residential and farm assessment.

Once again, we have listened to the concerns raised by members of the educational community and we have incorporated additional flexibility to permit a continuance of representation for sparsely populated rural areas. A board will be able to designate certain municipalities as low-population areas requiring special consideration in the matter of distribution. An electoral group within a board may, by a three-quarter vote, direct an alternative distribution of its members to increase representation in designated areas. I believe this will address a number of concerns expressed by boards that have jurisdiction over a mix of rural and urban areas.

With this bill, we will remove from the statutes of Ontario Canada's last remaining provisions for the election and distribution of representatives on the basis of wealth. We have provided protections and guarantees for specific groups and we have been sensitive, wherever possible, to practical concerns expressed by members of the educational community.

I hope all members of this House will join me in bringing about the swift passage of this legislation.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Deputy Speaker: Before we proceed with the next speaker, may I make the following announcement: Pursuant to standing order 30, the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) concerning the salaries paid to pilots of MNR CL-215 water

bombers. The matter will be debated at six o'clock today, of course.

**EDUCATION STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT
(continued)**

M. R. F. Johnston: Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais participer au débat.

I am on my feet again on another of the series of reform bills that the Liberal government has introduced to confuse the voters of Ontario and to throw into jeopardy the democratic process this winter.

I want to make just a few comments. The first is that the fundamental principle involved in Bill 125 is one which it is possible to support. That is the principle that for the first time the principle of representation by population, something we have accepted in terms of our own election for many years, is finally in Ontario actually going to apply to school board elections as well.

Of course, all of us in this House can be thankful that a principle for which people like Mr. Mackenzie become involved in those riots of some 150 years ago and that others have thought might be an important principle for democracy has finally come to Ontario. We are pleased to see that.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Your role model?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My role model? Just one of them. I do not think he was radical enough, but he was going in the right direction.

In that sense, the New Democratic Party, of course, is very much in favour of that underlying principle of the legislation and is pleased to see it before us. But as well we have to look at this in the context of how it has come about and in the context of the other legislation which surrounds it, which is to be in effect and operating by the time of the municipal elections this fall. In that context, I must admit to some nervousness, as the minister knows, about just how smooth that process is going to be and whether or not some other very fundamental rights for electors are going to be squashed in the middle here.

1620

The first thing I would like to recall for the Speaker and the members of the House is the fact that there has been now, for some time, a discussion about bringing in representation by population, and the present government in fact initiated a study which reported last summer with some recommendations about how representation by population might be brought in. That commission or committee basically suggested it was high time that we moved in this direction but

also warned about trying to bring in this kind of a move in an election year.

They basically suggested that if they were going to bring in representation by population, they had to take into account a number of very serious variables around the province of Ontario, whether it was rural boards or some of our northern boards or whether it was major urban areas like Metropolitan Toronto or areas of particular francophone concentration like the Ottawa-Carleton district.

To bring in legislation that would actually bring into effect the principle of representation by population without hurting the present responsibility of those boards and representation of those boards would be something that would be very difficult to do in an election year. It was the kind of thing that would require many months of discussion, it should go through a major public hearing process involving people around the province talking about how to refine that kind of legislation, and it should probably not be introduced before the elections in 1991.

In spite of those recommendations, very fundamental recommendations from that committee which looked at this very complicated matter, the government has chosen to run full speed ahead with a series of bills which will change the whole electoral system this fall and which, as I say, a number of us are a little nervous about in terms of how they are going to operate. We will just discuss some of the problems we see with this kind of legislation.

When it was first brought in—I will remind members that this was brought in as Bill 76 at one point; it is now Bill 125. Bill 76 was then amended with about 15 pages of amendments by the ministry, as I recall, and then it decided that was not even enough; it had better get rid of that and include Metropolitan Toronto in this whole revision and make it all one act under Bill 125. The reason Bill 76 and Bill 125 have problems is that the province is a very varied place and the kinds of historical and regional differences that have marked our democratic growth in the province of Ontario are quite different depending on whether you are in Kenora, Ottawa, Windsor or Toronto, as examples.

In Kenora, for instance, the problems that existed there are of a rural community around Kenora with a lot of cottagers in smaller municipalities around that area, all having some very traditional representation on the board, which might have been considered to be too heavily weighted in favour of the outlying districts versus Kenora. When Bill 76 was

brought in, that was reversed and people in Kenora became concerned about the fact that certain parts of the community now were going to be disenfranchised for the first time in the name of representation by population but that distinct communities within the larger Kenora district community would now also be disenfranchised.

As a result, we have now seen a series of amendments which have been brought in under the guise of Bill 125 to try to give some flexibility to that local board to recognize those historical realities of that district.

We have also seen a new bill brought into the House which has just gone out to the social development committee, which is to bring in, for the first time ever, francophone boards in the region of Ottawa-Carleton. The combination now of having a francophone board as well as the other boards in the region is a whole new business for us there and has major implications for Bill 125, as I indicated to the minister as we were discussing that bill, Bill 108, and I think it was not envisaged, as it was first brought forward, that in point of fact there would be perhaps some problems around the whole question of French rights as guaranteed under the Constitution, as upheld by court decisions in recent years and as guaranteed by this government and the work of this Legislature through Bill 75. But the complications and the interactions between these various pieces of legislation in fact compound the difficulties of trying to write comprehensive legislation at this time.

In places like the city of Toronto and Metropolitan Toronto we have what I think is a mix of concerns. The commission that met last summer said that even if we went ahead with this process of rep by pop in the rest of the province, it would be very wise to deal with Metropolitan Toronto separately and to take much longer to work with that, because the variables and the complexities in the various municipalities of Metropolitan Toronto were such that it would be really wise to let them bring forward to the government a series of proposals around how that might shake down.

As a resident here in Toronto, I have to say that the new change of incorporating Metropolitan Toronto in Bill 125 is useful for the majority of municipalities in Toronto. I think it allows them effectively to have exactly the same number of representatives as they had last time by virtue of their option now to add one or two, and the feeling of some of those municipalities that they were going to have too few representatives and

too heavy workloads for those trustees is now something they do not have to worry about.

It also, of course, makes it possible just to maintain old boundaries and not really to have rep by pop on a localized basis. That is something which I think is left up to those local boards. Having looked at their plans, in most municipalities I do not see that as a problem, but when I look at the city of Toronto I say that it is problematic indeed.

The Deputy Speaker, being from the eastern part of the province, may not be aware of what has taken place at the city of Toronto level with the board at this point, but I would just like to bring him up to date that in fact a process was developed at that board which is very politicized, as members from this region will know, between the New Democrats on the one hand and others who refuse to be named but who are readily identifiable on a party basis.

They came down to what seems to be a very partisan kind of distinction and differentiation of what the ward boundaries should be, separate ward boundaries from those that are envisaged for the municipality in terms of the councillors and aldermen who will be elected and on a basis which distorts the principle of representation by population in enormous fashion.

I indicate to the Deputy Speaker that in point of fact the difference by ward could be as much as 96 per cent in the city of Toronto. Let me go back just one step. What they did was to take a 30,000-voter base for the determination of how many trustees there should be—one per 30,000 voters—and make this a very hard-and-fast rule.

Then they divided up the city of Toronto in such a fashion that you had neighbouring wards, one which would have two trustees elected at 30,000 plus—say, between 30,000 and 31,000 electors—and a neighbouring ward with only 29,000 electors which would elect one representative; a distortion, as I say, of almost 96 per cent in at least two cases in the city of Toronto in the whole notion of representation by population.

If members know how our legislation works provincially, they know that kind of margin is not allowable. Even when we look at regions of the north, where we have to take in the factors of distance and that kind of thing, we do not have a 96 per cent variable. Even the huge riding of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) would not have that same kind of flexibility in terms of numbers.

Mr. Laughren: How huge?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: How huge? It is so huge, I tell the member for Nickel Belt, that his riding

looks like a tiny little municipality in comparison.

Mr. Laughren: An ink spot.

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Mr. R. F. Johnston: An ink spot on the map, that is how it comes to the member for Lake Nipigon's riding.

But here we have a situation in downtown Toronto, where there is no major difference in terms of the geographical size of the area or geographical distinction of a sort that would require this kind of variable, yet we actually have a board which has interpreted representation by population to allow this large differentiation, so that in one ward 30,000 voters, or just under 30,000 voters, would have one representative and the neighbouring ward, with only 31,000 voters, would have two.

I would suggest that this is inappropriate. One would therefore have hoped that we would have seen, someplace in Bill 125, something from the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) to indicate that this kind of process was inappropriate and that the legislation did not envisage that kind of range of representation. We have not seen that. Instead what we will have in the city of Toronto is a total number—which will range from 17 to 21, one would presume—but no guide to them in terms of just how specific a range there can be between these various wards.

Not only that but, as I will talk about a little later, there is no appeal process for the citizens of the city of Toronto to be able to raise their concerns about that fact and the sense that they feel disenfranchised. The minister, I know, has received many deputations from people in the city of Toronto, some of whom are in fact considering at the moment taking a Charter of Rights and Freedoms case to say that they believe due process is not being awarded them at this time.

I hoped that the minister would have responded to some of their concerns, because it seems to me that as reformers, as people who finally are representing the notion of representation by population, the Liberal government of the day would not want to have offended other principles in terms of the rights of an individual elector to appeal the decision, in this case by a person or persons unknown in terms of the distribution of their wards.

What I mean by that, because it may seem mildly obtuse, and I try never to be too obtuse, is the fact that under this legislation a board can make the kind of determination that I have talked about in the city of Toronto, and then an official

to be determined by regulation—one would presume a clerk of one of the municipalities—gets to make the decision as to whether or not it is an appropriate division of the boundaries.

What is bizarre about that, if members think about it, is that we have a board of education which we are now saying can be elected totally in its own right and by rep by pop, and which presumably, therefore, would have its own officials finalizing its own redistribution within the mandate given it by this government. Yet it is the clerk of a township, or in this case probably of the city of Toronto, who would have the right to draw up the boundaries and make these final determinations.

The members of the board of education, if they do not like the way the determination has been made, can appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board, but only a majority of them. An individual board member may not take a concern about gerrymandering, as he sees it; and neither can an individual take his concern about the fact that he is now less represented than he was before this legislation was brought in, which is the case for most of the people living in the downtown portions of the city of Toronto.

Those oversights, even though they had been raised with the minister long before Bill 125 became law, are things which I find difficult to believe the government has not moved on to this point.

I also say that from my viewpoint, looking at the combination of the laws and the kinds of problems that have been raised for the government, I begin to wonder whether or not it is feeling as well that this all may be being done a little bit too late. The kinds of constraints we are putting on boards of education and municipalities around Ontario with this election reform are not ones which we would accept as members in terms of the kinds of changes in the electoral process we expect for ourselves.

If you look at the way we do redistribution, it is done over a long period of time and clearly well in advance of an election, even if the finalizing of it is not done until just imminently before an election. At least the process is very long and we all have a real chance to raise our concerns with the commission as members of the Legislature. Our own constituents are able to go before that commission and raise their concerns and appeal the initial drawing of boundaries that is done by the commission. Yet we have taken all those rights away from people we now have deemed as finally warranting the democratic right of repre-

sentation by population. It seems to me to be quite contradictory.

I look at this in terms of where the election expenses legislation, which goes with this, is going to end up. I say as well that I know this is not this minister's responsibility, but it all ties in to this. If we now are taking board elections so seriously that we will finally allow them to be elected on a population basis, surely we also want them to have the same rights to election expenses assistance that we have and that we now accept for the senior levels of government.

Yet the kind of formula which has been developed by the government in a real rush has meant that almost all the boards of Ontario will decide not to participate. It is virtually impossible to think of more than a handful of boards in the whole province that will enact the election expenses side of this package of legislation that is going through. If you think of it, one of the major problems of it is that the money is to come out of the municipal tax base. As any member of the school fraternity or sorority, whichever you want, out there will tell you, they are already feeling overtaxed on the property tax basis. They do not feel they have a great deal of flexibility in terms of the bucks they have and are not going to be—

Hon. Mr. Ward: Which section?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As I said, this is not a bill the minister is involved with, but this is a package of bills, and to suggest that they are not interrelated would be foolhardy.

Surely, as I am saying, taking the position he takes in Bill 125, that rep by pop is important, and that his government has brought forward legislation which says now that election expenses legislation should apply to school boards as well—which I would hope the minister would be interested in and would have had some input—then makes it difficult to understand how it is that we end up with expenses legislation which most of the boards of Ontario will not opt into. First, it is an opting-in process; they get to decide. The money for it is taken from their assessment and, as a result of its being taken from their assessment money, it takes away from the money they have for their school programs, so it forces them to raise the mill rate to allow for an election expenses act.

If you can imagine any board participating in that in an election year and trying to explain to people by whom they are then going to try to get elected why it is going to cost their taxpayers more this year in order to help them get re-elected, we both understand, I presume, that

this is not something most of them are going to enter into.

Not only that but if you look at the difficulties of determining, for an apartment dweller in a place like Scarborough—in my riding, for instance, if it opted into this program—who decides to give money to the election of a local trustee, how much of that person's rent goes to his taxes and who is going to pay that person that rebate at the end of the year, you realize how impossible the formula is that the government has established.

I just say again that it had been my hope that when we saw a package of bills, as we have seen, they would have been brought in with enough time, enough forethought and enough chance for public input that we could have ironed out a number of these problems before we ever got to the stage of having this legislation brought before us.

I wonder if I can just speak a little bit to the question of this appeal process. I think it is vital to a member of the public, who we are now saying, as a voting adult, is in fact the sacred base of our democracy at the municipal level as well as provincially; that is to say that representation by population gives each one of them one vote. It does not matter what their property holdings are now. It is a matter of the fact that they exist as individuals within that community and that is all that matters. They are given the right to complain about, or to require adjustment to, the distribution of wards in their area.

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We now have the ironic situation where certain municipalities in Ontario have afforded that right to their trustee electors already. An area very close to the member in Ottawa-Carleton has already done that for all of its boards up to this point. A member in Ottawa-Carleton, a citizen in that area who is unhappy with redistribution can, at this stage, through that specific Ottawa-Carleton legislation, take an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board and say that, in his view, this particular division is an inappropriate division and ask the Ontario Municipal Board to make a ruling on that basis.

That applies to a number of other municipalities as well. In this case, in Toronto for instance, the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board has the same provision written into its legislation. Now we are going to see the situation where that right is taken away for those very few communities which already have that ensconced in their law, and we are not going to provide that to any of the other municipalities in Ontario,

even though we have now decided rep by pop is so important and now a sacred matter for this level of government as well.

The terrible irony of this, of course, is that—and I may be corrected by the parliamentary assistant on this, but it is my understanding—right at this very moment there is a group of people from the Ottawa region that is, in fact, making an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board about the division of the wards in that area. If this legislation is to pass in its present form, then their right to appeal disappears. I see the minister's head shaking and I am sure he will get up and correct me on this and indicate which section of Bill 125 it is that allows them to appeal.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Under the Municipal Act.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Under the Municipal Act, he is now telling me. It is a dangerous thing for me to talk to the minister, especially when he just wants to taunt me so. The minister will understand how the Ontario Municipal Act works and what the process is for making that appeal at this stage. It is not a direct right of appeal by trustee electors for their divisions at all. They can take their appeal to the local council under the Municipal Act and, if it proceeds from the council, it can therefore go on to the Ontario Municipal Board. But the right of an individual in Ontario anywhere to challenge the division of his school board wards is not explicit anywhere within the act the minister is talking about.

In fact, they have a second-class status only under that act, and only if they proceed through the municipality, not if they go through their own as-of-right action by electors. The minister knows that full well. Therefore, it is not clear. In fact, what we need to this legislation, and what I will be proposing to this legislation, is an amendment which writes in the specific guarantee of rights that is in the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton Act, which is in those other acts which I have talked about, which presently gives those rights to those constituents.

The minister will know, for instance, that the people from that region who are now appealing are not doing it under the Ontario Municipal Act at all. They are doing it under their local regional acts, and for a very good reason when you look at the process and the sections of that local regional act. It has been said—and I find this difficult to believe and I know the minister will want to clear this up at some point in the debate—that the reason he is unwilling to put forward this appeal process at this time—and he has already told me in the past that he was not ready to proceed with this

at this time and he understood it was something that needed to be discussed.

I am quite interested by his new posture that, all of a sudden, it is covered by the Municipal Act.

Mr. Jackson: Was his line, “Can we talk?” Isn't that his line?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think it was something like “Can we talk?” and we did talk. At any rate, we had a brief discussion at one point, and he indicated to me that, although this was problematic, it was something that he would like to see looked into over the coming months and not put into this legislation at this time. The reason, I am told by others—and I am sure it is not true—is that if we actually put in a direct appeal mechanism this year at this time and somebody actually followed that route of right that we gave him, it would mess up the elections very badly this fall, and the elections themselves might not be able to take place in the way that we would like them to.

I cannot believe that the Minister of Education would actually believe that was the case.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I thought you were progressive. William Lyon Mackenzie would roll over in his grave.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am certainly glad that the minister will rise in his seat in high dudgeon, at some point or other, to say that is not the case and that he is going to welcome my amendment, which is lifted from present legislation and gives that right, which he has now accorded to certain boards, to those citizens of Ontario so that they have that right to raise their concerns.

If we do not do that, then we are playing fast and loose with the real democratic rights of these individuals, because one cannot on the one hand believe in representation by population, the sacrosanct right of an individual's vote to be equal to that of any other individual's vote in our society, and then say that those individuals do not have a right to appeal what they see as falsely or badly redistributed ward boundaries.

So I will just say to the minister that I give him good notice at this stage of my intent. I already told him some time ago that I would come forward with those kinds of amendments, and I will do that to both sections of the act which are appropriate when we get to committee at some point or other.

I want to raise a few other concerns and give the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) a chance to slip out—no, no: to attend some very important other business, I know; but he told me that Sterling Campbell was not here, so there was

no way he was staying. I am not sure if that is true.

The other day I raised with the minister, while we were dealing with Bill 109, some of the concerns that were raised by l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario au sujet du projet de loi 125, and I would like to deal with those again today if I can.

At that time, I was asking the minister whether he saw any of their concerns as affecting Bill 109 specifically. He indicated to me that he understood the argument they were making around the numbers of people who would be representing the French population on that board, but he basically felt that the formula that was in place would be adequate. I presume at the hearings in Ottawa in the next little while we will discover whether that is accurate.

I want to just run through a few of their arguments. I will just read a couple of their statements, very short commentaries that they have, to give members an idea of the thrust. They say as follows:

«Le gouvernement veut utiliser les données du recensement pour déterminer le nombre de conseillers scolaires dans les sections linguistiques des conseils scolaires. Ceci aura pour effet de diminuer le nombre actuel de conseillers dans les sections de langue française, alors que leur nombre est déjà un minimum avec lequel il est extrêmement difficile de travailler. Le nombre de conseillers scolaires francophones ne doit pas être inférieur à ce qui est prévu par la Loi 75.»

This is a vital point to the French electorate, and I know if the minister feels that they were protected under Bill 109 for the specific region of Carleton, under the bill that we put forward, he will want to make some direct comment, I hope, in the debate here around the intentions around Bill 125.

What is being said here, essentially, is that we brought in Bill 75 in order to respond to certain rights of the francophone community within the Constitution which were upheld by court decisions in recent years. What Bill 75 said, among other things, was that the boards would have the right to determine the number of representatives they would elect.

Now what we have is a bill being brought forward that says the number of representatives they will be able to elect will be based on a formula of population that is the same for French boards as it is for English boards, and in some cases that may afford the local French elector a reduced number of representatives rather than as

many or more representatives. Therefore, they may have some difficulties with that.

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Of course, in other circumstances it may very well do what we would all hope it will do, which is to add to their representation; because as the quote I made expressed, there is already a feeling that the French-language education councils are operating on a basis that is stretching their ability to do what they are supposed to do under legislation.

I think it is really vital that in bringing in this principle of rep by pop, we not see ourselves in fact taking away from rights the French community is guaranteed in the Constitution and to which we have been moving so well during the last number of years, not just with Bill 75 but also with Bill 8 and other kinds of initiatives that are finally starting to really recognize those rights. It would be a shame if this particular initiative were to undermine those rights.

One of the central concerns raised by the French community here is that the determination of how many voters there are, and therefore how many representatives you are going to have by district, is made as a result of the enumeration that is under way. Yes, the enumeration; that is the English. I keep getting my recensements and my enumerations mixed up.

They have a real concern that the French-speaking community is not aware enough of the fact that its rights are at risk in this enumeration. They basically say in their argument, if I can just find the section—of course I cannot, so I will not read the French; I will just remember from my English translation what it was.

They are very concerned that there is nothing in the text of the enumeration itself that says their rights are guaranteed; that if you do not write down, for instance, every name of every adult in the house, the fact you may have missed the grandparents in the home or the children who are of voting age may affect directly the number of people elected. The argument they are making is that this is a very serious infringement of their rights.

The point I would make is that the trigger mechanism for the base number of representatives is less than 5,000 people. You get eight representatives for 5,000 or more, and for up to 8,999 you get 10 representatives.

The possibility would be that if a bad enumeration were done, and this is the first time we have done this kind of enumeration, for the French community in particular there is the prospect it could have fewer people determined

to be elected that fall, as of July when these figures are out, than is real. They then may be getting themselves an inadequate number of people elected.

In the Ottawa situation, they had a guarantee of seven members of the board no matter what else happened, and in this case there will be a guarantee of approximately eight, but there is nothing to say that a board could not easily miss out.

The point they make is that in the section on our enumeration forms, which I am sure we have now all filled out and sent back in as responsible electors, the English says, "List all residents; use a second page if necessary," but the French does not indicate that at all. It just says, "faites les changements dans l'espace ci-dessous," show all your changes in the space below. It does not say specifically in that section of the formula that you should put down everybody.

Now, if you know how these things come out, they come out in a very sexist fashion. They come out to the male head of the family. Mine was made out to me, rather than to my wife, even though we are co-owners of our domicile. It is quite possible that in homes where there are more than two adults involved, whether these are grandparents or adult children living at home, only two people could show up on the list.

If you fail to get this back by May 12, because of any kind of mess-up there might be with the mails or your lack of understanding of how important this is—

Hon. Mr. Ward: Don't be picking on postal workers.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I assure the member I was not picking on postal workers as I said that.

Because of any kinds of problems there might have been—a person away on vacation at this time or on business or whatever—you are not going to be on the list that is going to be there in July. If you send it back in and you fill it out incorrectly, you will not be on that list in July. If four or five members of a household are not on and you multiply that, it is quite easy to see how in point of fact you could end up with boards elected with fewer representatives than they should have by the fact that it is all going to be determined by this first go-through of the enumeration and not later on in the process.

The French, by the way, are not the only ones to raise this concern. I have here a copy of something put out by the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association, a report on policy dated April 27, when it as well raised concerns about this matter of how you determine what the size of

your board will be, even for the English-speaking community. They say:

"An amendment which enables all school boards to by a three-quarters vote of the board increase or decrease its total board size by one or two trustees will also apply to school boards within Metro Toronto. The school boards must, however, make this decision before July 1, 1988. Since school boards will not receive the enumeration data until the end of July, they will be unable to determine whether adding or decreasing their board's size will be beneficial or not."

You have on the one hand the French community, whose very right to have its own representatives and the base numbers it can expect to have are going to be determined by this first-time enumeration that we are doing, which the French community has never seen before, which it is not accustomed to filling out in any sense and which it may not understand may be crucial to a determination of the number of representatives; but you also have the fact that the other boards of the province of Ontario are going to have to try to make their decision before their enumeration results are even in, to be able to determine whether or not they ought to add the one or two members to the board that they suggest are more representative.

I want to ask the minister if he can respond to this assertion by the association. Let me read it to the minister and then perhaps discuss it a little bit. On page 4 of their reaction to Bill 125, they state:

«Le projet de loi 125 retire aux Franco-Ontariens le droit reconnu par la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario et par la Loi 75, de diviser le territoire et de répartir les conseillers scolaires de la façon la plus appropriée pour la communauté francophone.»

I basically want to ask the minister whether he sees that as being challenged by this act, whether he feels their right to establish their own divisions of their own territory based on terms they see as appropriate or not is clear through Bill 75 and through the court decision, and whether in fact what we have here are two laws in conflict, a new law on rep by pop and some constitutional guarantees that are there for the French community.

If he does see that as a potential conflict, I wonder if he could talk to us a little bit about what he sees in the future in terms of dealing with this. Are there perhaps changes forthcoming to Bill 75? Are there other kinds of changes that may be seen in the future that will try to accommodate these conflicting desires for representation by

population on the one hand and the entrenched rights in the Constitution on the other hand?

Just to put it on the record for them, because they are not here in the House to do it themselves, I want to restate the question they have of the difficulties of making the francophone community understand the importance of the recensement.

1700

«Il s'avère extrêmement difficile d'informer la communauté francophone en si peu de temps au sujet de leurs nouveaux droits et de la nécessité de s'identifier lors d'un recensement. Il est tout à fait inacceptable que les données du recensement soient utilisées à d'autres fins que l'élection des conseillers scolaires, alors que la communauté n'est pas informée de ces autres implications.»

I do not know if the minister wishes to speak to what those other implications might be, those other usages of this information which are of concern, or whether these need to be of concern to the community, but I hope he might address those matters in the next little while.

It is not my intention to take up the whole time to discuss this matter at this time. We will have, I presume, a great deal of time in committee to talk through these concerns and to see what amendments are forthcoming from the communities themselves.

If I might, I will list just a few of the groups that have had some concerns and that will no doubt wish to come forward. The Association of Large School Boards in Ontario has, from the beginning, expressed its concerns and has put them in writing around Bill 76, and now Bill 125, because it does not see that some of its concerns have been addressed in that matter. Specifically, I think they have concerns, as the minister will know, around leaving to regulations the identification of who is responsible for the partition of the wards or the districts. They also have difficulty with the lack of an appeal mechanism, the need to have one placed in the bill.

We have now heard that the French community has major concerns. If the members see the way they are worded in the reaction I have been quoting from, they will see that in point of fact, there is obviously, in the French community now, a discussion whether there will be a challenge to this legislation in the courts in terms of its taking away from the rights that have been developed with Bill 75 and otherwise.

If that is the case, and if we have not sorted those things out, then the morass the government is moving us into in this electoral reform process by trying to make it apply to this coming year is

going to be a deep and sticky one to no one's benefit.

For those of the members who have not had a chance to read the legislation, there is one other that may seem like a small part but which has been of concern to me and which I raised when we dealt with Bill 77 some time ago, one of the other bills that is all of this package. For the French community, another major factor that may affect the number of people it can actually get elected, especially in areas like Ottawa, is the way in which, by using an old definition of what a francophone elector is and not expanding that to meet the realities of the changing francophone population, we have now excluded a large number of immigrants whose first language is neither English nor French and whose second language is French.

Those people, who want their children raised in our schools, but in French schools, and would like to have some say in the running of their schools and how they are operated, will not have the right, under this legislation, to be a French-language elector. They will be forced to be electors to either the English Catholic system or the English public system.

It strikes me this is harmful in two ways. It is harmful in the sense that on the basis of representation by population and because we are recognizing the rights of French electors this time through an enumeration and through special new components of boards, or in the case of Ottawa-Carleton through a board of its own, at the very time we are doing this kind of major change and recognition of the French fact, this section of the French community is not going to be allowed to participate.

This community is not an insubstantial community. It should be remembered that many of the people who came to us from Vietnam had French as a second language rather than English. Many of those people moved into the Ottawa area, as an example, because of the wonderful open-arms policy which was developed in that municipality during the time of the boat people's tragic problems.

There are other groups that can be identified as well, from Africa and other parts of the world where French was the normal second language, that have come to Canada presuming that in this bilingual country they would have the ability to send their kids to French schools, which they will still be able to do under this legislation—I want to make that very clear—but what we have said to them is that unlike every other citizen in the province at this stage, you will not be able to

make a determination based on your language of choice and your language of utilization to actively elect those people who will be running your own school system. I think that is really unfortunate.

The second reason it is unfortunate comes back to the matter I was raising before. I do not know how many of those people would be in a place like the Ottawa-Carleton area, as an example, but there would be quite a number. That could easily have an effect on the number of people who would be elected to the board in that case, or be elected to the local committees on the boards in other areas, places like Toronto. I think that omission, in the name of moving towards representation by population, is a glaring one and needs to be spoken of again.

Just in termination of my comments here, it is our hope that this legislation, with the fundamentally positive premise of representation by population, albeit with all the flaws I have been trying to enumerate for these last few minutes, will go to committee and will get there a fuller discussion than I have been able to give it here, by people who have a direct interest in the legislation and perhaps in the kinds of things I have been talking about, a direct concern about the loss of rights of appeal and other powers that they might have wanted this legislation, brought forward by a Liberal reform government, to contain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this chance to put my thoughts on the record.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Are there any honourable members who wish to comment or ask questions?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I just have a few comments.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Wipe that smile off your face.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I am not smiling. I am grimacing from the comments put forward by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), a man I once thought of as progressive and reform-minded until after hearing his comments. The only thing I can say is that William Lyon Mackenzie would surely turn over in his grave if he had heard the member's remarks.

Obviously, the member is advocating continued procrastination. Obviously, the member does not want to move ahead with this very necessary and democratic reform of a system of electing school trustees in our province. I do want to clear up some of the items on which the member seems to be labouring under a certain degree of confusion.

First, he talks about taking away the right of appeal by enacting this legislation. The right of

appeal he refers to is one that exists in the Municipal Act. It is true that electors under the Municipal Act can make an application to a municipality, but if the municipality refuses to act on that request within 30 days, it then can be transmitted further on to the Ontario Municipal Board. That is the first point I would make.

The second point I would make is that any citizen still has the right to appeal to a judge on this legislation. There is no denial of appeal that currently does not exist in the legislation that is in place in this province as it relates to boards of education.

He also did make reference at some length to a method of apportioning trustees that I believe was put forward by the public boards in Metropolitan Toronto, and also a proposal put forward by a group that dissented to the boards' original position. I refer the member back to the legislation and ask that he look at it very carefully, because he will find—

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Was that two minutes? OK.

1710

Mr. R. F. Johnston: We must change the rules to allow parliamentary assistants to speak wherever they can. I cannot respond to the second half, because I did not hear the end of it, unfortunately, but no doubt we will get a chance to enter into that debate later on.

But I am concerned about what I am hearing from the minister. I gather he does not wish to extend to the community at large the same rights the people from Ottawa-Carleton have had, the electors for the Metropolitan Separate School Board in Toronto have had, that is, to have a direct right of appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board.

I am very disappointed to hear that, because the indirect method to the OMB is not a very useful one, as he will know. The statement that they can always go to a judge is not exactly going to be a very pleasing prospect to the people of the province, who—I would hope the minister would feel—should have the right to a direct appeal if they are unhappy with the redistribution.

We will continue to try to persuade him that it would be better to be direct about that and allow him to vote against that kind of direct amendment if he chooses to later on.

Mr. Jackson: I, too, am pleased to be able to comment on this bill.

When the Minister of Education referred to my colleague, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), perhaps wanting to delay

this bill, I thought he was referring to the length of his speech. However, it underscores the fact that there are many problems associated with this bill, which he had the privilege of enumerating first in this House.

We, too, from our perspective in the Progressive Conservative caucus, have a considerable number of concerns with the manner in which this bill is being presented.

As some members of the governing party have arrived late for the debate, clearly it is incumbent upon me to re-emphasize and repeat some of those very valid points as stressed by the member for Scarborough West.

All members of this House will be painfully aware that we have been awaiting this bill for some time. In fact, it was the original Bill 76. However, after an uproar from almost every trustee in this province—I know the minister has indicated there are a couple of trustees who have been supportive of the bill in principle, but we have heard considerable feedback from trustees in this province about concerns with this bill, and in the process of this debate and other members commenting from our party, these will be brought forward. I hope the minister and his parliamentary assistant will be sensitive to those comments.

The minister, in his wisdom, has decided to make several changes to this bill, not only in terms of its number; I think there has been a series of three or four drafts and amendments. This is not a few; this is a substantive amount of amending which has been going on with this bill in its very short life since it has been presented in the House. I understand, as late as two hours ago, that the minister is contemplating even further amendments to this bill. They have not been shared with me as yet, but to the extent that is true, perhaps the minister would be pleased to respond to that as one of the first areas in which he might respond to my comments.

We find it rather unbelievable that a matter of such substance and importance as the electoral processes for public school, separate school and francophone trustees in this province should be handled in such a patchwork and ad hoc fashion.

I find it also a little upsetting that the minister, in spite of the fact that he had the recommendations of his predecessor's joint committee, which were acceptable to most of the trustees in the provinces, chose and decided that he could not follow completely those recommendations when it came to drafting both Bill 96 and, to a lesser degree, Bill 125, which is before us. In the minister's opening statement he paid tribute to

that very committee, on behalf of his predecessor. In a sense, he was saying, "Thank you for the contribution, but not for your recommendations."

In fact, in the entire Bill 76 fiasco, the proposed amendments that the former minister articulated to educational groups in April 1987 were also less than acceptable. The onus is on the minister to look to the groups concerned before writing legislation and to ensure that their advice is not only given a full hearing before the legislation is written, but also during the actual writing of the legislation as well. The minister should have considered the recommendations made by these groups more carefully. After all, as elected provincial parliamentarians, we would accept no less, so why would we not afford the same type of courtesy to publicly elected trustees in this province on such a matter of fundamental importance as the manner in which we are democratically elected?

Instead, we have seen the so-called government of no walls and no barriers placing the walls and barriers in front of some groups that would be most affected by this legislation. The consultative approach means more than simply inviting input and then ignoring it. It is our belief that the minister is being badly advised by the Mowat Block, not about the principles of this bill, but certainly about its implementation and its ability to be implemented effectively and reasonably in the short time frames that are remaining.

However, the principles of representation by population—principles through which we, as members of this House, are elected—are what is important about this bill and which all members, I am sure, can agree with. We recognize that, and for that we congratulate the ministry for this late but appropriate piece of legislation.

It is unfortunate, however, that while the minister recognizes the importance of this main component of the recommendations of the report of the joint committee on trustee representations, many of the committee's other recommendations appear to have fallen by the wayside.

The first and most serious of these ignored recommendations was first proposed by the government's own Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections. That was the recommendation that unless Bill 76, or as we now know it in its new life, Bill 125, was passed before January 15, 1988, it should not—I repeat, it should not—be in place for the 1988 municipal elections. Clearly, the government is ignoring that very sound and stable recommendation by proceeding at the rate at which it is.

Similarly, there is a fair degree of discontent being raised by the municipalities, which are integral to the implementation of this bill. The minister will be aware that many municipal clerks have written to the Minister of Education stating that it was not within their purview to decide the electoral districts of trustees. In fact, many clerks have found themselves caught in situations which have become most inappropriate.

I can speak from experience, having been a trustee on the Halton Board of Education. Under the previous legislation there was a section that, when the assessment shifts occur within a county or within a region involving several municipalities, allowed the distribution of trustees between those municipalities to be adjusted.

In fact, although this process will not occur on an assessment-based question under the new bill, the process of clerks being put in the position of deciding the fate of certain trustees, either by number or rural mix, is a matter of great concern, and it will still happen in the government's new bill.

1720

What in fact happened in the region of Halton was that an appeal was made directly to the municipal council by the director of education on behalf of the school board. What ensued was not the arguments being advanced about representation by population, or representation on the basis of family, of schools or educationally and administratively sound units. The decision that they felt would have the least impact was simply put forward by several aldermen, with the concurrence of the clerk and the director of education.

As a result of the recommendations made by the director of education in that forum, there were very bitter feelings among the trustees who were knocked out of the electoral process as a result of that intervention.

The minister's bill states that the clerks will rely on advice by a person as set out in the regulations. We understand that in those regulations the minister is recommending the directors of education—or maybe we can assume that it might be the directors of finance for school boards who will be put in that position. If the minister has been listening carefully, he will know from the experience I have related to him that it became a very difficult, uncomfortable and tenuous situation for a director of education to be put in that position with the board with whom he had been employed.

The minister will be aware that the Ontario Association of Education Administration Officials has indicated to him it has great concerns about a director of education and a clerk being put in this type of relationship in terms of deciding, even mediating among their own board members, which trustees will have to be severed from their former boundaries and which trustees might benefit from a new configuration based on the recommendations of the director. I ask the minister to heed very carefully the questions and concerns being raised by the clerks of the municipalities of Ontario, because it is on that basis they are expressing that concern.

They do not wish a process to be politicized, either at the school board level, meaning a director, or with an employee, meaning the clerk of a municipality, to be embroiled in that type of a political debate. In fact, perhaps during the committee hearings, if we are fortunate to have this referred to committee so that we can impress upon the government further amendments, the minister will hear more clearly evidence about third-party or arm's-length review of the process, as opposed to leaving it in the hands of employees, the very people about whom they are making decisions.

The minister has failed to address another critical question that arises from the municipalities when making political decisions; namely, that of the potential for a process of imagined or real cases of gerrymandering. This has been referred to by the previous speaker. We are not satisfied that elements of the bill will either promote that or alleviate our concerns in that regard. We ask the minister to be more forthcoming with an explanation of how that can be limited, if not, in fact, eliminated totally.

As the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario put it, and I wish to quote from their note to the minister: "As soon as the incumbents on a school board can decide how many trustees will be elected and where they will be elected"—which is otherwise known as flexibility or local autonomy, according to the minister's presentation—"then individual trustees, challengers, private citizens and investigative reporters will start to look for situations where 'hanky-panky' may have taken place in the political back rooms."

That is coming from the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario. It is not convinced the minister has eliminated that kind of potential for abuse or misuse in the bill.

From a government that has proven itself to be most comfortable with the process of referring

issues and responsibilities to municipalities, I am not surprised that he would further hand this responsibility over to municipalities, as well. It is not surprising at all.

The problems and concerns of municipal clerks have not been adequately addressed in his bill and it still remains a point which he has not publicly clarified.

Another point that I would like to raise with respect to the bill is the problem of the addition or deletion of one or two trustees with the support of a majority or, as specifically set out in his bill, two-thirds of the trustees. He refers to this as the so-called local option. The fact is, this bill does not augur well for its impact on Bill 77, with respect to the time lines for the local option decision and the requirements for the completion of municipal enumerations, which are currently under way.

Under this Bill 125, the board must make its decision with respect to its actual board size and numbers by July 1. However, the list of municipal elections, according to the current Bill 77, will not be required or made available until the end of July. That is a full 30-day gap, yet his appeals under Bill 77 further extend an appeal period by 10 days to further complicate matters.

I have had a hard time understanding how a total of three bills, dealing with trustee appointments and the municipal elections process, cannot hang well enough together so that one does not create significant problems, one for the other. Perhaps the process of the public hearings will help give a forum to those mandarins at the Mowat Block who continually advise the minister that in fact this will happen. Perhaps they can come out in a public forum and explain how these bills will interrelate and in fact work.

Furthermore, this Band-Aid solution of setting up processes for an appeal, which must be made within 10 days of the board's receipt of the municipal enumeration list, is quite ridiculous. The bill forces the board to make its local option decision without the information about the size of the actual constituency involved. How are they supposed to best determine the size of the board without knowing the size of their constituency?

Further, Madam Speaker, I am concerned that under this bill, only municipalities or boards can appeal the distribution of trustees and only on the grounds that it varies from the formula provided within the bill. In some areas such as Metropolitan Toronto and Ottawa—well, for that matter throughout Ontario—trustees can be elected on an at-large basis or a ward system and the balance of power on those boards can be radically affected

by the establishment or a ward of an at-large boundary basis. Perhaps we could see the right of appeal extended to electors and the grounds for appeal extended to include the distribution of ward boundaries, as well.

Also, Madam Speaker, francophones in some communities have expressed concern to me that the new formula to be used to calculate the total number of francophone representation on some boards will vary from the representation they now have under Bill 75. As well, I have some concerns about the ability of the board to increase its size by one or two trustees. This could be used to shift the balance of power on a board. This bill does not provide any guidelines for designating the additional trustees as francophones, anglophones, public or separate.

I have tried not to be overly critical of the bill. I wish to raise a lot of questions which, in our view, still remain unanswered. The goals of the bill are still quite laudable. However, it is too late. The timing is wrong. This was discussed early last year, yet it is only now before us.

As I stated earlier, the municipal elections advisory committee recommended that this bill, if not passed by January 15—some five months ago—should at least be postponed to come into effect for the 1991 municipal elections. I would have to concur with those sentiments and I would have to support those sentiments. For that reason, we support the reference of this bill to committee, at which time we are hopeful that the members of the governing Liberal Party will listen more intently in committee than we feel they have been doing within the hallowed walls at the Mowat Block.

Perhaps then the government will see the wisdom of what the public is telling it and, in fact, this bill will not be implemented until the 1991 elections. We fully support the process of inviting members of the community in to provide their thoughtful and appropriate comments on this bill.

1730

Ms. Bryden: Like my colleague the member for Scarborough West I support the basic principle behind this bill and its flawed predecessor, Bill 76, which was fortunately withdrawn by the government after the many flaws in it were demonstrated to the minister by many residents and other groups commenting on it.

The principle behind this bill is to switch from trustee representation based on property assessment to trustee representation based on rep by pop. I think all of us commend that principle, and it is the principle followed in representation in

both the federal and provincial legislatures and parliaments. But both the member for Scarborough West and myself, and many of my fellow caucus members, are concerned about the way this switch in the basis of representation is being implemented in the new Bill 125.

The deviations allowed from the principle are so great as to invalidate the basic thrust of the bill. These deviations may come about as a result of the so-called flexibility in the bill.

We certainly recognize that there is need for flexibility. When you have diverse local circumstances, diverse public and separate supporters—that is, diverse numbers of public and separate school supporters in different areas—flexibility may be a laudable objective, but there is a great danger that the kind of flexibility that is in this bill will also permit attempts at gerrymandering by boards or trustees attempting to protect the seats of incumbents.

I think we have to recognize that if trustees are given the power to make decisions on the number of trustees per ward and the choice of electoral boundaries, they definitely have a conflict of interest. It would, of course, be better if all boundary-drawing and all decisions on numbers of trustees and deviations from rep by pop were left to an independent redistribution commission, as is now done at the federal and provincial levels.

But the haste with which this legislation has been brought forward does not allow the development of such a method of redistribution. Of course, if we had an independent redistribution commission, there would have to be opportunities for local appeals to the redistribution commission, because that is the way the federal and provincial systems operate.

Lacking an independent redistribution body, there should at least be an opportunity for an appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board by local boards, individual trustees or individual citizens. I understand that is not fully allowed in the present legislation. It may be, again, that time is too short to allow that process to operate for the coming municipal and trustee elections, but I think there must be some sort of mechanism put in for appeal from the decisions that may be allowed on the basis of flexibility, and that appeal must apply not only to individual citizens who may feel aggrieved, but to individual trustees or full local boards. That is what we would like to see incorporated in this legislation, among other possible amendments and improvements.

As a resident of Metropolitan Toronto, I have a special interest in this bill because, unlike Bill 76, this bill does extend to the Metropolitan Toronto boards of education which operate under the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, chapter 314, Revised Statutes of Ontario 1980, as amended. All of us, both in Metro Toronto and throughout the province, are concerned about the deficiencies in Bill 125, which makes it difficult to consider supporting it without suggesting that some changes should be made.

I sat on the legislative standing committee which dealt with Bill 29, which set up the reform of the electoral system in Metropolitan Toronto this year, and it dealt with trustee elections as well as with aldermanic and council elections. It certainly became obvious to those of us who sat on that standing committee and went through the bill clause by clause that not only were there great opportunities in it for gerrymandering, but that some gerrymanders were actually attempted in both the city of Toronto and in the Toronto school board. We observed various proposals that were put forward in the city of Toronto. Some of them appeared to be straight gerrymanders to protect the incumbents and to deviate from the rep by pop in order to protect their seats and keep the boundaries somewhat the same as they are.

Fortunately, the city of Toronto council rejected those attempts at gerrymandering. Perhaps our exposure of them in the committee hearings had something to do with that. But the final result at the municipal level that went from city council to the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) for approval was a fairly straightforward redrawing of boundaries and while it deviates somewhat from rep by pop, it is not grossly distorted. But at the school board level, the board of education attempted a gerrymander that would not only cut across municipal ward boundaries, but it would have cut across local board boundaries as well and created a real mess for the electorate.

The electorate would have great difficulty knowing what area was represented by their trustee and in what ward they were, and they would have no resemblance to the wards that were set up for the municipal councillors and the local wards that were set up for the councillors who sat on the Toronto city council. Fortunately, the committee that dealt with Bill 29 recommended that cutting across board boundaries should not happen and the minister accepted that principle. It was made clear during those clause-by-clause hearings that Bill 29 would not allow boundaries for local wards or for trustee

wards that cut across the boundaries for Metro wards.

1740

That was a good step, but Bill 29 does not prevent different numbers of different trustees for the various wards. You can have one per ward or you can have two or three or four, as long as you attempt to consider representation by population, do not propose more than 22 trustees, I think it was, and as long as the wards do not cut across the boundaries.

This flexibility was permitted, presumably, to accommodate some local school boards or some local municipalities within the six municipalities that make up Metropolitan Toronto.

It has resulted, in some cases, in the present setup being pretty well retained, which does mean the incumbents are happy there is not very much disruption in their wards. It has meant some variations from rep by pop, because the previous wards were not always based on that as closely as they should be; but what it has given the opportunity for is for the school board to go back to a gerrymander.

They produced a recommendation, which presumably went to the Minister of Education, that allowed for a variation of one-member, two-member, three-member and four-member wards for trustees, most of whom would be elected at large, although in some cases there would be separate boundaries drawn for the four members who would make up the number of trustees within a Metro ward.

The deviation from rep by pop is really shocking. My colleague went into some of the figures, showing that there was a 96 per cent difference between the lowest and the highest and that it was something that should be rejected.

We have not yet heard whether the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) has approved this in consultation with the Minister of Education. The final authority for approval is placed solely in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and we are still waiting for his decision on what the trustee representation will actually be in the school boards in the various areas of Metropolitan Toronto, where there are six school boards and one central school board. The makeup of that central school board is also set forth in the present legislation.

We are very concerned about this bill and how it will affect the school trustee representation in the Metropolitan Toronto area. We are concerned that the flexibility there is capable of permitting abuse of the system, and that should be looked at very carefully to make sure that

whatever goes through in Bill 125 does not permit outright gerrymanders to protect the incumbent and to draw the boundaries so that their previous seats are still very much in the same boundaries as they were and very much deviations from rep by pop.

That is my main criticism of the bill as it affects Metropolitan Toronto. I hope there will be changes in that area, as well. We would like to see this bill in effect for the coming November elections, because we have gone so far as to get the new setup arranged for the municipal elections and it would be unfortunate if the trustees' boundaries were not also changed at the same time.

We are unhappy with the speed with which this was brought in and rushed through and we think the ministry should have done a lot more planning on the whole of both Bill 76 and Bill 125 and really should have done this thing over a much longer term. But we are faced with the situation that we have to get the municipal and the trustee elections off in tandem on November 14, 1988, and so we probably will have to support the bill but we hope it can be changed in committee.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a few comments I would like to make on this bill. Bill 125 is supposed to be the revised version of Bill 76 and they claim that the new bill contains amendments which allow boards to better guarantee adequate representation to rural areas. I find that hard to accept.

It is my understanding as well that the new bill, Bill 125, deals with some of the problems that boards of mixed urban and rural representations have. If the minister is interested, I would like to point out some of the concerns that I have, but I will address them to you, Madam Speaker, and I am sure somebody will read Hansard.

On April 7, 1988, the Wellington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board made a presentation to the minister and the parliamentary assistant to the minister requesting assistance in capital funding. The minister very kindly obliged this board, and if he is paying attention he will understand that this is a compliment and likely one of the few he will receive today.

I would like to point out one of the statements they made at that time, and I will read it into the record:

"The board consists of 17 trustees, including three members of the French-language education council. Of the 14 English-language trustees, five represent county municipalities and nine represent Guelph. That arrangement will change

significantly if Bill 76 is enacted in its present form." That, of course, is now Bill 125. The board goes on to say, "We anticipate that the county representation would be reduced to three members."

If the minister were interested in listening, he would realize it is pretty difficult to explain to people how you can better guarantee adequate representation to rural areas. To me it would seem to be the reverse. Did the minister catch that?

I would like to go on to say that Mrs. Brenda Chamberlain, the chairperson of the Wellington County Board of Education, spoke to me today about her concerns about the new Bill 125. She said that on Monday, May 2, the board passed a motion—I suppose we should use the word "recommending"—recommending that the Minister of Education maintain the status quo. They are not interested in any change. Especially because of the late date and the forthcoming municipal elections, they feel it would not be an appropriate time to make a change. They would like to maintain the status quo, and it is certainly in line with recommendation 82 of this government's own Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections.

I might point out to the members of the Legislature—I am sure the minister is aware—that in Wellington county, along with the city of Guelph, we have a combined population of 140,000 people. The city has 80,000; the county has 60,000. Under the proposed table on page 8 of Bill 125, the board would have 17 members. The makeup of the present board is nine county and six city trustees. It is my understanding that under the new legislation it would completely change and there would be 10 city and seven rural representatives, and this is based solely on representation by population. I fail to understand how the minister can say that we can better guarantee the rights of rural areas with this type of change.

1750

I would like to suggest that rural representatives have a much more difficult task in representing their constituents than do urban trustees. In the county of Wellington we have over 250,000 hectares, we have 340 miles of county and suburban roads and we have hundreds of miles of township roads and, of course, many miles of provincial highways. In the part of the country that I come from, we have what we call a snowbelt. There are immense problems in the wintertime with transportation factors.

There are many problems that rural trustees have that the city members do not even hear about, except at trustee meetings. I hope the minister would understand that there is a vast difference in the responsibilities that rural trustees have in relation to city trustees, and consideration should be given to more than simply that we have representation by population.

On that very point, I would like to suggest that even in this Legislature we do not follow that rule. Some members of this assembly represent ridings that possibly have even fewer than 25,000 people. There are other members who represent ridings that have triple that number. My present riding of Wellington has more than 59,000, and my old riding before redistribution, Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, had 85,000 people to represent. There is quite a significant difference. We do not go entirely by representation by population, so I do not know why we have to be so gung-ho that Bill 125 has to follow that rule.

I would like to suggest strongly to the minister, who is standing before me, that he give consideration to rural representation and better strengthen the role it has to perform in this education process that we have in this great province of Ontario.

I had a couple of other matters I would like to discuss, but my colleague on my right, the great member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve) and one other township, also would like to make a few comments; so I would just simply make two other comments.

First, I do not think the appeal mechanism is satisfactory. We have 21 municipalities in Wellington, plus the city of Guelph. Whether it is accurate or not—the minister could maybe answer the question some time in the future—it is my understanding that any appeals must be addressed to the clerk of the largest municipality. That would mean that the clerk of Guelph would, in essence, control all the appeal mechanisms for the board. If that is inaccurate—and the minister looks as if he is shaking his head and muttering—then he can correct it. I hope it is and I would be very pleased if it is.

I have just one more request of the minister: Let the bill be sent to committee and let the people have the last opportunity to have some input into this legislation. It will affect them for some years. It is again my understanding that most of the school boards, while they support the bill, are not opposed to having it sent to committee for further input.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to point out that the government did indeed have due regard to the needs of rural Ontario in terms of the mechanisms we put in place, first of all, for specifying low-density areas and, second, in terms of the flexibility that allows boards to make a determination that members either be added or deleted. So in the case of Wellington, I would assume that if he is using as a premise the numbers 10 and seven between city and county, they would indeed be 10 and nine.

The third point I would like to make is that I hope the member for Wellington would understand full well that I am indeed aware of the needs and the aspirations of rural Ontario. I come from the village of Rockland, population 110. By my standards, he is an urbanite.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I might mention that Brenda Chamberlain, chairman of the Wellington County Board of Education, was the one who was most concerned about some of these aspects. Indeed, if the minister feels there is no problem, there is a possibility that I could maybe believe 10-9 is not all that bad. Even if it was equal, it would be better. I do appreciate the fact that there is some consideration given to increasing the numbers. Is there any consideration given to decreasing the numbers? If there is more of an equal makeup, it would be satisfactory, I think, to most people.

Mr. Villeneuve: I, too, would wish to express some of the concerns, as they were expressed to me by the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education. The minister, I think, is aware that this is a large, vast, rural area surrounding a fairly large metropolitan area, the city of Cornwall. There is great concern about the rural representation, vis-à-vis those from the city of Cornwall. I would like at this time to simply express the concerns as they were expressed to me, as follows:

"During December 1987, the government of Ontario gave first reading to two complementary acts which will, if adopted, provide for a reapportionment and redistribution of trustees. It is conceivable that this legislation will directly affect the proportional number of trustees from the city of Cornwall, as compared to the number representing the rural municipalities." There are 20 rural municipalities. "Therefore, it is moved by Roy Hastings and seconded by Graham Casselman that the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education requests the government of Ontario to review and revise this legislation to guarantee the present number of trustees now serving our rural areas."

The word "delete," I think, should be looked at very seriously in the light of existing representation. A comprehensive study of population by either number of ratepayers or student enrolment shows this request to be fair and just.

First, please consider the population according to the last census. This study for Cornwall reveals that 15,676 persons support the public school system, while 30,304 support the separate system. The census plainly shows that 68 per cent of the population in Cornwall are indeed separate school supporters. Please note that there are 35,195 persons being served by our eight rural trustees; that, I think, is very important. If one considers that two of the French-language education council trustees are from the city of Cornwall, and all of the trustees' David Mohawk students are in the city's school, it seems that we already have representation by population, in spite of Bill 76 which is now being replaced by Bill 125.

From this board's publication, Educational Statistics, 1987-88: "The population of schools in our jurisdiction presents very similar arguments from those gained from the last census. Excluding the Mohawk and French first-language students, who have their own trustees, there are 4,019 students in Cornwall schools and slightly more than 7,000 students in the rural section. The eight rural trustees have an average of 879 students in the schools of their jurisdictions. The numbers, plus the distances between schools and the distance from the central office in Cornwall, are further reasons that the present number of eight rural trustees should be guaranteed and maintained for the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education."

Subsequent to deliberating upon this particular presentation, the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education moved as follows: "That the SD&G County Board of Education seek to protect the rights of another minority, or that of rural population, by having at least the same number of trustees as now present in our rural municipalities. This number would apply to all future boards regardless of any increase in the number of trustees from the city of Cornwall." This motion was circulated and I fully and strongly endorse it.

I believe, according to the time, it would be in order for me to adjourn the debate for this evening.

Mr. Laughren: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: Is it appropriate to adjourn when Sterling Campbell is not here?

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): It is a point of observation, not a point of order.

On motion by Mr. Villeneuve, the debate was adjourned.

The Acting Speaker: I have been advised that there is an agreement between the member for

Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) that there will not be a late show this evening. Therefore, it being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until 1:30 tomorrow afternoon.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
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 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
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 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
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 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
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 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics
 and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and President
 of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
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 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
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 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
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No. 61

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament
Wednesday, May 11, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of members of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 11, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CHILD POVERTY

Mr. Allen: Let us end child poverty. About 330,000 children in Ontario are stricken with poverty. Children do not choose where they will be born or when they will be born or to whom. The arbitrariness of their fate very quickly overtakes them.

Poor babies have a higher death rate. Poor kids in the lowest income group, aged one to 14, are almost twice as likely to die from some cause than those of the highest income group. The odds are almost five times higher that they will be in a motor vehicle accident; they are three and a half times more likely to drown; suicide and homicide rates are almost three times higher for boys and four times higher for girls aged one to 14 who are poor. For boys 15 to 19, the suicide rate is almost twice as high from the lowest to the highest income group, and they are three and a half times as likely to get killed at somebody else's hand.

That is not the end of the story. If you are aged one to 14 and in the poorest income category, you are not only twice as likely to get cancer, you are almost twice as likely to die from it within the next two years. If you get a respiratory illness, especially pneumonia, you are twice as likely as a poor boy and six times more likely as a poor girl to die from it. You are also more likely to suffer from anaemia, tooth decay, chronic ear infections, mental retardation, learning disabilities and poor school performance.

These conclusions should shock us. They are the result of a thorough review of existing research by three Toronto medical researchers and, added to the findings of Dan Offord on the social-psychiatric impacts on children on welfare, they are devastating. Do we have in this country an ongoing conspiracy against poor kids and poor children?

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mrs. Cunningham: I would like to comment on the statements and performance of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) over the last

week on the leaseback issue. Put bluntly, but as kindly as I can, it was embarrassing. From day one of this controversy, the minister has been unable to explain the actions of her ministry, unable to explain why she was unaware of the issue and unable to understand that the economic times we are in—but more important, the actions of her government—have been forcing hospitals into leaseback arrangements. This government boasts about its new programs and initiatives; yet what it does not say is that it funds only 50 per cent of many of those programs and then expects hospitals, already hard pressed, to find the other 50 per cent.

The Minister of Health owes not only this House but the civil servants in her ministry an apology. Yesterday, when it was revealed that her ministry did indeed grant formal approval for leaseback arrangements, instead of accepting responsibility for it and for her error in denying it, she attempted to put the blame on the civil servants in her ministry. She should be ashamed.

If she wants to play semantics, as she did with the leader of the official opposition the other day, when she waved a thesaurus and said nowhere in it did the word "realign" mean "cut," let me suggest she look up the word "formal." One of the definitions is "through channels." The minister has been hoisted by her own petard and she owes us all an apology.

INGREDIENTS IN FOOD

Mr. McGuigan: In the House of Commons on April 22, Sheila Copps, MP for Hamilton East, introduced private member's Bill C-289, an Act to amend the Food and Drug Act. This bill would compel each restaurant to make available for public consultation a list of all the ingredients in food sold by the restaurant. Bill C-289 would also compel each branch restaurant to affix a label listing all the ingredients in packaged foods on the container.

At least two families in my riding have recently suffered the death of their children as a result of allergic reactions to food. Ms. Copps, myself and others have addressed this concern. I am pleased to say many restaurants have undertaken voluntary disclosure actions.

The Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association has said it supports the consumer's right to know the ingredients used in restaurant meals. This statement, Ms. Copps's bill and a recent documentary on CBC's *The Journal* are very significant.

I believe we need further recognition from federal Minister of National Health and Welfare Jake Epp that the solution does not rest totally with the allergy sufferer. I believe the measures suggested by Ms. Copps's bill must be considered in the federal House of Commons and I urge each member of this House to lend his or her support to food allergy sufferers and write to the Honourable Jake Epp to indicate support.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Wildman: In response to the concerns I have expressed and those that have also been expressed by the school boards in northeastern Ontario, the Ministry of Education is sending the assistant deputy minister, Roy Houghton, and regional ministry staff from Sudbury to tour northern Algoma this week to meet with educational officials. The problem is that the ministry has been providing inadequate funding for small school boards in small northeastern Ontario communities. The officials from Toronto and Sudbury will be meeting with the Michipicoten education officials today and then travelling to Hornepayne tomorrow.

I have specifically requested the minister to have them visit St. Basil separate school in White River as well, so that they can discuss the financial difficulties that school faces. Because White River is part of a larger board jurisdiction—that is, the Michipicoten District Roman Catholic Separate School Board—and does not have its own board, it does not receive this special isolate school funding that separate boards in neighbouring communities of Dubreuilville and Hornepayne get. As a result, the Michipicoten separate board cannot staff St. Basil sufficiently to meet its mandate to provide needed remedial teaching and special education programs this year.

The problem is not isolated to St. Basil school in White River. It is a problem that small boards and small schools face across the north. Hopefully, Mr. Houghton's visit will lead to changes in ministry funding policies to ensure that boards across the north get the adequate funding they require.

USE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Mr. Harris: I rise to bring concerns about ministerial use of confidential bank records to the attention of the House.

This week approximately 95,000 Province of Ontario Savings Office account holders received a personal letter from the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître). The minister's letter deals with the introduction of guaranteed investment certificates, repeating information provided in an accompanying information pamphlet.

The substance of this particular letter is not at issue, but I am concerned that there is a letter and I am very concerned that the minister has access to the names and addresses of some 95,000 account holders.

Many people question whether our government should even be in the banking business. The savings office was created in 1921 to give credit to farmers. Now it serves as a source of borrowing for the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and costs taxpayers more than \$8 million a year to operate. This kind of letter demonstrates just one of the conflicts created by politicians meddling in the private sector.

This financial institution has such a low-profile its own director calls it "the best-kept secret in town." Obviously, this secrecy does not apply to the names and addresses of its 95,000 clients. I submit the minister should not have personal access to this kind of privileged and confidential information.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Beer: Mr. Speaker, some housing good news.

Fact 1: With leadership provided by Peter Formica and Sharron Richards of the York Committee on Affordable and Adequate Housing and with strong support by York region council, a nonprofit housing corporation has been set up in York region and an interim request for 350 units is being submitted to the Ministry of Housing.

Fact 2: A joint review has just been carried out by the Ministry of Government Services in the town of Aurora to determine the feasibility of providing housing on government-owned land at the south end of Aurora. Mayor John West and members of his council are working to respond positively to the need for affordable housing in Aurora.

Fact 3: The town of Newmarket's Mayor Ray Twinney, responding to the request of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) for more affordable housing, has put forward an innovative proposal to cut local lot levies in return for a fixed number of more affordable homes.

Fact 4: The town of Newmarket's housing committee, chaired by Councillor Tom Taylor, is pushing forward with plans for nonprofit and co-op housing in those areas of the town now slated for housing development. Fellow councillors Diane Humeniuk and Dave Kerwin, along with Chairman Taylor, have announced that 75 units will be built in a new development on the south end of town. The councillors believe Newmarket will respond effectively to the Premier's request that 25 per cent of all new housing projects be geared to some form of affordable housing. Councillor Kerwin states that "Peterson's suggestion is humane and decent."

Fact 5: Today the Premier and the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) are meeting with the regional chairs of York, Durham, Halton, Peel and Metro Toronto to develop more ways to bring on line the affordable housing we need.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Beer: People, ideas and leadership will bring us the housing we need.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Riverdale for 31 seconds.

INCINERATOR

Mr. Reville: Congratulations go out today to all those who worked so hard to deliver a significant victory for the environment. Citizens for a Safe Environment and Councillor Rodger Hollander, working together, convinced Metro council yesterday to close down the Commissioner Street incinerator in Riverdale. Kudos to them and a large raspberry to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), who once again got scooped by citizens and local politicians.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am rising to inform the House that under the Public Hospitals Act, I am sending an investigator into the Cambridge Memorial Hospital to report to me on the quality of management and administration of the hospital.

As members will know, the Cambridge hospital is on the list of 22 hospitals with chronic deficits that my ministry has been reviewing. In the fiscal year 1986-87, the hospital ran a deficit of \$400,000. In 1987-88, the deficit was \$1.5 million and the projected 1988-89 deficit is \$3 million.

Ministry of Health staff met with representatives of the hospital yesterday and the hospital presented an amended plan to reduce its deficit, the main points of which were closure of a 40-bed medical-surgical unit and the layoff of 50 staff members and introduction of user fees to patients at the rate of \$150 per admission and \$50 per surgical day care visit.

The hospital administration intends to present the above plan to its board at a meeting tomorrow. Thus, I am announcing today that I have appointed Vickery Stoughton, president and chief executive officer of the Toronto Hospital, as an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act.

Mr. Stoughton's report will provide information on the following:

1. The appointment of additional medical staff at Cambridge when the board of governors of the hospital had full knowledge that the resulting cost increase would increase the hospital's deficit position;

2. The approval of the purchase of expensive computerized systems with little or no financial benefit to the hospital's operation at a time when the hospital was in a deficit position;

3. The economic impact of the transfer of moneys from the hospital's operations into the Cambridge Memorial Hospital fund;

4. Decisions to initiate new programs without Ministry of Health approval and the funding and operation of beds above approved and funded capacity;

5. The deliberate approval by the hospital board of deficit budgets.

6. Any other matters relevant to the quality of administration and management of the hospital.

MANDATORY RETIREMENT

LA MISE À LA RETRAITE D'OFFICE

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Today it gives me great pleasure to table the report of the Ontario Task Force on Mandatory Retirement. The task force was chaired by Dr. Ronald Ianni, president of the University of Windsor, and was commissioned by the government in January 1986. Its mandate was to study existing laws and employment practices, which allow for mandatory retirement at age 65.

The task force was also asked to assess the implications of any change in the laws that would restrict or prohibit mandatory retirement practices.

The task force was given this assignment because mandatory retirement had become the subject of considerable debate. It had been noted

that the Ontario Human Rights Code affords protection against discrimination in employment only until age 65, at which point individuals may be required to retire.

Opponents of mandatory retirement argued that placing this age limit on protection deprives individuals of their right to equal treatment under section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Others argued that mandatory retirement is socially justifiable because it permits individuals to leave the workforce in dignity, facilitates personnel planning and creates employment opportunities for younger workers. It should be noted as well that the Ontario Court of Appeal has held that mandatory retirement is a reasonable limit to the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the charter.

In their report, the three members of the task force expressed their view that mandatory retirement is out of step with a growing concern for human rights.

They also said the practice is inconsistent with trends developing in Canada and elsewhere, but they disagreed among themselves on what should be done about it.

Dans leur rapport, les trois membres du groupe d'étude ont exprimé le point de vue que la retraite obligatoire n'était plus au diapason de l'inquiétude croissante vis-à-vis des droits de la personne. Ils ont aussi indiqué que cette pratique était en contradiction avec les tendances qui se développent au Canada et ailleurs, mais ils n'ont pu s'entendre sur ce qu'il fallait faire pour remédier à la situation.

The chairman, Dr. Ianni, said that mandatory retirement should be prohibited by law. He said this would put an end to uncertainties about the practice arising out of the charter and would avoid the costs associated with court challenges. This was not the view of the two other members of the task force—Daniel Damov, president and chief executive officer of Travelers Canada, and Heather Webster, research director for the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union.

They took the position that relatively few people are affected by current practices and that formal abolition is therefore not necessary.

In the report, the question of whether to legislate an end to mandatory retirement was left open. Should the government decide to end mandatory retirement by means of legislation, the task force recommended, among other things, the following: (1) that employers be given a three-year notice period before implementation

of the ban; (2) that the Ontario Human Rights Code be amended to remove the upper age limit on discrimination; (3) that the code still allow employers to claim the right to discriminate on the basis of age, where such discrimination can be shown to be a bona fide occupational requirement; (4) that law enforcement officers, prison guards, firefighters and others whose work is vital to public safety be exempt from the ban; (5) that pension plan rules be changed to allow employees greater latitude in making retirement decisions; (6) that a retirement counselling program be made available to Ontario public servants; and (7) that the government explore means to encourage and facilitate early retirement.

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Those are the major recommendations and they will be given every consideration by the government. In tabling this report, I would like to express my appreciation to the task force members for the diligence and the thoughtfulness they brought to their study of this very complex issue. At this time, I would like to introduce the members of the task force, who are with us in the members' gallery today. They are Dr. Ron Ianni, Daniel Damov and Heather Webster.

RESPONSES

MANDATORY RETIREMENT

Mr. B. Rae: I look forward to reading the report of the Task Force on Mandatory Retirement, but simply say to the minister that, in our view, he cannot deal with the question of mandatory retirement unless he is also prepared to deal with the question of pensions, pension reform, the indexing of pensions and income security for people who are retired, whether they retire at 55, 65 or 70.

To take a legalistic approach that separates the question of mandatory retirement out and away from the question of the indexing of pensions and the adequacy of pensions would be a very serious mistake. I know it was that sense of tension of the issue which has exercised the members of the commission. I, too, want to thank the members of the commission for their labours. I hope very much that they will not be wasted. That depends on the minister's willingness to bring forward legislation dealing with pensions, as well as with employment standards, in response to what they have had to say.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. B. Rae: I do want to respond, and so will my colleague the member for Cambridge (Mr.

Farnan), to the announcement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) this afternoon. It is obvious that on Monday, Timmins got the carrot, and on Tuesday, Cambridge got the stick. I think the minister's announcement today can only be described as the use of a bludgeon to punish hospitals that are faced with the incredible problems which flow from the announcement by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

What is obvious from the minister's statement is that Mr. Stoughton is being asked to provide information on what the ministry has already decided is the problem, rather than to make an independent investigation and determine from the hospitals' point of view why it is they have made certain decisions and felt forced to do so.

If I might say so, throughout the minister's statement there is absolutely no sense of the difficulties and dilemmas faced by this hospital, and indeed by every single hospital in this province, in response to the minister's statement. It is truly incredible when one thinks about it.

When one looks at the major partners in the health care system, what is out of control? Under the Treasurer's own figures, the Ontario health insurance plan is out of control. What has the ministry's response to that been? It has been to ask the Ontario Medical Association to decide what the problem is and to let the OMA partially pay for a task force, which has a majority of OMA members on it, to determine what the problem is.

When it comes to drugs, then the ministry says yes, there is a problem, obviously the system is out of control. What is the answer? It is to appoint a long-term commission—not to do anything about it, but to appoint a long-term study. When it comes to private laboratories, we have no steps by the government to deal with this question.

When it comes to hospitals, whose budget increases have been far less than those of the other partners I have mentioned in the system, what is the response of the government? It is to set out an arbitrary limit of 4.4 per cent, to say that anybody who goes over that is out of luck and not to try to determine what the problem is.

That is why the government is in trouble. It will not do to punish hospitals. It is not the answer to punish hospitals that go public. The answer is to recognize that there is a funding problem. Until the government is prepared to recognize that, it is out of luck.

Mr. Farnan: Also in response, it is obvious that this ministry is in total disarray. It is also obvious that any dialogue that has taken place

between this ministry and Cambridge Memorial Hospital has been a total farce.

There has been a drastic increase in population in Cambridge. There have been significant increases in services to meet that demand and, at the same time, there has been absolutely no recognition of this on the part of the ministry. The ministry has avoided serious dialogue. It has destroyed any confidence this community can have in this government to look at the situation seriously, to look at the needs and to look at the needs that are being met. As my leader has pointed out, simply in an effort to look tough on an issue, it takes a hospital and makes this kind of drastic announcement.

This is not the way to run a government. It is not the way to build up confidence. It is a way to undermine the health care system of this province, something the government has started out upon. In a very short time, I can tell the minister, she has undermined the confidence of hospitals, not just in Cambridge, but there are 22 hospitals looking at this. If this is an example of the way we are going to take care of the health needs of the citizens of Ontario, it was a sad day that this Liberal government was ever elected.

Mr. Eves: I would like to respond to the statement from the Minister of Health as well. I think it is a sad day in Ontario's health system when a minister of the crown has to respond with such a mean-spirited, retaliatory message as she delivered here in this House today.

Where is the report? Why will the minister not make that report public? Where are the other reports for the other 21 hospitals as well? I thought this was open and frank government over there, true democracy. We heard a lot about that in 1985. It seems it has only taken a few short months to forget about that.

Where are these reports? What has the government got to hide? Why are they not public information? The Ministry of Health has had them for 41 days. If the minister did one a day, between her and Dr. Barkin, they could have cleared them up in the first three weeks; or are they not that important?

We have had the reaction of the government earlier to St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins. As the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) said, we have the typical carrot-and-stick treatment being handed out by the Minister of Health in this province.

Cambridge is one of the fastest-growing areas in this province. In fact, the government acknowledged that, with the new Toyota plant in the area substantially increasing the population.

The government put \$30 million of the taxpayers' money into it. It is a fast-growing area.

This hospital is obviously doing what the minister has said hospitals across this province should be doing. They are responding to providing essential health care needs for their community, and this community is a very rapidly growing one. Obviously, the hospital thinks it needs more capacity. It has to deliver more services to meet those essential needs in the community.

The minister and the Treasurer have sent some very mixed signals to hospitals across this province: "We're not going to cover deficits whatsoever. Well, maybe if it was our fault. Well, maybe we'll cover some and maybe we'll cover portions of others." I think the government is going to have to get its act together over there and decide exactly what it is doing with the future of health care in Ontario.

There are not only the 22 hospitals under review right now, but there are also the other hospitals. There are 90-some hospitals in Ontario that operate deficits as well. What are they to gather from the announcement the minister made in the House here this afternoon? What message, she might ask herself, is she sending to some 40 per cent of the hospitals across Ontario?

These are people who, in good conscience and with all sincerity, are trying to deliver essential health care services in rapidly growing areas of the province, and the minister is not providing them with sufficient funds or giving them direction to provide those services I think every Ontarian deserves.

MANDATORY RETIREMENT

Mr. Harris: I want to add my word of thanks to Dr. Ianni, Mr. Danov and Ms. Webster for tackling a very difficult, very complex and very interwoven issue and indicate on behalf of our party our thanks for the effort and time they put into the report of the Task Force on Mandatory Retirement. I look forward to reading it and contributing in any way we can with the government in a difficult problem.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Harris: I want to talk a little bit about the statement from the Minister of Health. It concerns me because North Bay Civic Hospital is one of the hospitals which have had administrative review. Those reviews have been in now for six or seven weeks. They have been completed and they have been finished. What bothers me about these administrative reviews and the way

this minister and this government have dealt with the issue is this. They have told the hospitals, "Here is your review," the peer review that has gone in. "In spite of what that says, you are not to take that to the media. You are not to take that to the public. You are not to talk to Mike Harris about what that administrative review says." Those are the orders the minister has given out.

Mr. Eves: "And if you dare even think about it, we are going to club you."

Mr. Harris: "If you dare even think about that, we are going to club you."

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That bothers me. It has bothered me right from the start and it is one of the reasons we have been talking about the issue for a period of time. Now we see this study which has come out here and the talk about retaliatory measures.

There was one administrator in this province who said: "This is too important an issue. My board members have to know. The public has to know. The people who own the hospital have to know." That was the administrator of the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. He released the report, I assume with the permission of the board. What happens to them? We get this kind of statement from the minister condemning the hospital and the administration.

If these things are all true, the responsible thing would be to take over the management of that hospital. If one is going to do an independent review, one does not come out with this kind of retaliatory, accusatory statement.

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions today for the Minister of Health. The minister should know of a case which I want to bring to her attention because it typifies a problem.

Albert LeBel is 39 years old. He lives in Oshawa. He works as a glazing metal mechanic in Whitby at Snap Services, which is a nonunion shop. He is in severe pain. He has to take strong medication every day and his doctor has advised him that he needs his left hip replaced with an artificial joint. He suffers severely from arthritis.

He was booked for surgery for January 30, 1989, at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital just down the street on Wellesley Street. This booking was made in March 1988.

Mr. LeBel has just received a form letter from Dr. Hugh Cameron, who is the doctor at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic hospital. This letter informs Mr. LeBel that as a result of government

cutbacks and restrictions on the hospital's budget, his new admission date is February 7, 1990, and his new surgical date is February 8, 1990, 20 months hence. What does the minister have to say about this?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I have said a number of times in the House, our goal is to provide the highest possible quality of services with the greatest possible efficiency in hospitals. Over the past three years—in fact, since the 1984-85 budget—we have increased funding to hospitals in their base operating budgets by some 39 per cent.

We also have a regionalized system across this province for determining where and how services are provided. The specific hospital the Leader of the Opposition mentions is in contact with the ministry and the ministry determines what program level of service is available.

My advice on this individual case and to anyone is that they should ask for a referral to other hospitals that also provide this service within the system and then judge the differences in waiting time.

Mr. B. Rae: This is a disgraceful situation. The minister should know the executive director of the hospital has said the hospital is having to cut back on joints from \$1.6 million to \$1 million, which means that artificial hips and knees will be reduced from 600 joint replacements a year to 400. We are not talking about any old hospital. We are talking about one of the leading hospitals in Toronto and indeed in Canada dealing with the question of orthopaedic surgery.

I wonder if the minister can explain how she feels about the fact that Dr. Cameron has felt compelled to write that this document does not apply to patients who are from another province or who are covered by workers' compensation. What they are clearly saying is that the problem is with the Ontario health insurance plan. It is the restrictions in the government's payments. It is the way in which the government of Ontario is funding the hospital and that is what is forcing Mr. LeBel to live in this province in acute pain for another 20 months without surgical intervention. Surely, as Minister of Health, the minister would agree that it is quite simply a disgrace.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Actually, I think the issue the Leader of the Opposition raises is one of planning and who should appropriately be planning for services on a regional basis across this province. We recognize that not every hospital can provide every service to everyone,

and that is really what this debate in this House is all about.

I accept the fact that we have an important planning process in this province. With the advice of district health councils, the ministry then divides up the allocation we receive from the Treasurer. That allocation has been significant. Over the past 10 years, the hospital sector alone has received a 250 per cent increase. In the past four years, that increase has been 40 per cent.

What we need to have is integrity in that planning process so that as we make the decisions and approve programs, we will then be able to fund them adequately and look at where we have waiting lists and where adjustments may need to be made.

Mr. B. Rae: I say with the greatest respect to the minister that she is so trapped in bureaucratic gobbledegook that she has lost a sense of the humanity of this situation.

Mr. LeBel is not alone. There is not a planning problem. Mr. LeBel may have to quit his job and is going to be in pain for 20 months because those guys have not got a handle on the health care system. That is the reality. We all understand that. That is the reality and that is the problem, and he is not alone.

I would like to ask the minister what she is going to do to see that Mr. LeBel and hundreds of other patients like him are not having to wait for months, and indeed years, simply because she has gotten swamped by the system. She is immersed in the system and she does not have control of it.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I believe, and I think every member in this House would agree, that it is important for us to manage the resources we have. I believe the Canadian system, which is the envy of the world, is one that we must work at together to enhance, preserve and protect. Let me tell the member that a recent statement from the Wall Street Journal of April 22 says it all, I think:

"The Canadian system is beginning to look like a paragon compared with those of the US and Britain. The US system is plagued by runaway costs and a crazy-quilt patchwork of government and private insurance that still leaves a big hunk of the population uncovered, aggravating cost differences in care between the haves and the have-nots. The National Health Service in Britain covers pretty much everyone, but thinly; its quality of medicine is crumbling and Britons who can afford it are fleeing to private physicians. Nobody needs to do that in Canada."

We must manage our resources. We must plan together. We must not have the kind of

open-ended system without adequate planning that will lead us to the kind of disarray south of the border or to the effects of the National Health Service in Britain, which we know has problems.

Mr. B. Rae: I will tell Mr. LeBel the minister's answer is that he should take out a subscription to the Wall Street Journal. It is tragic to see a minister who is in this position.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: We are not talking about the National Health Service. We are not talking about the American health care system, which stinks and everybody in this House knows it stinks.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Your question is to the Minister of Health?

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister, with respect to the announcement she has made today about the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, how can she explain the fact that after several months of consultation with that hospital, there would not be one indication in her statement that anything the hospital has done has been in response to the health care needs of the people of Cambridge?

Why is there not one mention in this entire statement that at least part of the budgetary pressure on this hospital is caused by the fact that there are more and more people living in Cambridge and that this is placing demands on the health care system in that city?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the Leader of the Opposition does a disservice to this House and the people of this province if he does not suggest that we all agree that quality of care and access to the system are paramount for all of us. In order to do that, through that access and proposal, we must have a well-planned and well-managed system. I think we have planned relatively well in the past with the help of district health councils. What we cannot have is a system where each individual hospital does its own planning and presents its bill to the Ministry of Health.

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Mr. B. Rae: The minister cannot describe what is happening as a triumph of planning. It is planning gone nuts to have a situation where a hospital feels obliged to make the kind of announcement it was planning to make or planning to propose to the hospital board, which everybody on this side realizes is completely unacceptable, and then to turn around and say, "I

am going to ask the president of Toronto Hospital, Mr. Stoughton, to go in."

Just look at the minister's terms of reference. Every aspect of her terms of reference is a classic case of blaming the victim. There is not one aspect here in which the minister has said—I mean, it is guilty even before the investigation takes place. The minister has hung, drawn and quartered the Cambridge hospital. She has said, "It's all your fault and nothing to do with the ministry."

Why does the minister not ask Mr. Stoughton to look into the actions of the Ministry of Health? Why does she not ask Mr. Stoughton to look at the ways in which budgets of the Ontario Liberal Party government affect the Ministry of Health and affect the way in which hospitals operate? Why does she not make him really independent instead of having to do the minister's hatchet job for her?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Cambridge hospital was one of 22 which were under review by the ministry. One of the results of that review was the need to send in an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act, which is the beginning of a process of inspection under that act, which is a result of some of the things we found as a result of that review.

The terms of reference are very clear. If the member opposite is saying it is acceptable to have a list of unapproved programs, unauthorized purchases or operating funds which have been shifted or shielded to a foundation of the hospital, let him stand up and say that that is acceptable management practice. To me, that is not acceptable management practice.

The message is that we are going into the hospital to ensure that essential services are maintained and that that hospital is properly and appropriately managed.

Mr. B. Rae: What I am saying is that to have a trial of a hospital in which the minister is the judge, she is the prosecutor, she presents the evidence and then she appoints her investigator is not just, is not fair, is not right. She is to blame for this situation as much as anybody else in this province, and that is what we are saying.

The minister knows perfectly well that there is a Woods Gordon study out on the hospital which says that the hospital has been operating efficiently. In a conversation which our researchers had just a few moments ago with the administrator of the hospital this is all news to the hospital. There has been no advance warning to the hospital with respect to what the government was planning to do.

I say to the minister that if she wanted to have a study in which she says to somebody, "Look at us, look at the hospital and say what the problem is," that would be one thing. But to say, "We are blameless, we are lily-white, we have not done anything wrong; it is entirely the hospital's fault that more and more people are getting sick in Cambridge and more and more people are living in Cambridge," that is a disgrace, that is not justice, that is unfair.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think we all agree, and what I am hearing from the majority of the hospitals in this province is, that we must work together co-operatively and we must ensure that funding is used appropriately, and the Public Hospitals Act is there to ensure that care is provided to people in communities in a fiscally responsible manner.

I believe the hospitals are willing to work with the ministry, and we meet with them on a regular basis. The suggestion that Cambridge hospital has not been in contact with the ministry is factually inaccurate. They met with ministry officials yesterday, as this statement was very clear about, and I expect that the problems existing in that particular situation will be resolved in the very near future.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Brandt: I, too, would like to pursue the question of health care funding with the minister, particularly as it relates to some of the answers that she gave to questions yesterday in the House related to the whole concept of leaseback.

The minister obviously is now aware that approvals were in fact given by some of her ministry officials for leasebacks by certain hospitals, and even if the minister herself did not know about it, certainly ministry officials who were in a position of authority gave that kind of direction to various hospitals throughout this province.

By way of a question, I wonder if the minister could indicate to the House today how many hospitals have entered into leaseback arrangements in Ontario and how many millions of dollars' worth of public equipment has been sold to private investors as of this time?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: My answers in the House yesterday regarding leaseback situations were made on the basis of incomplete information, and I would like to set the record straight. When I made initial inquiries about the matter of leasebacks some days ago, the information supplied at that time was that there was no approval process and that the ministry was

concerned only with general guidelines on leasebacks.

Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not believe I am getting an answer to my question. If this is a statement of clarification on the part of the minister, there is an appropriate time for her to respond to that kind of statement.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: For the information of the leader of the third party, I think it is important that he have this. I did not approve any leaseback arrangements, nor did I delegate authority to any ministry official to do so. I was not aware that approvals were being given at the bureaucratic level. This, to me, is clearly unacceptable, and I have moved to ensure that it is clearly understood that "approval" means approval by the minister.

Mr. Brandt: It is totally unacceptable to me that the minister stood up and gave her statement and completely ignored the question I asked her. That is completely unacceptable. If she wants to apologize for a question that was asked yesterday—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think any member would want the Speaker to judge whether a question is in order or a response is in order. Would the member place his supplementary?

Mr. Brandt: Certainly it is in order to comment that the minister has full ministerial responsibility and is responsible for her staff.

My question—and I am sure the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will find this to be a responsible question—is very simply the question I asked in the first instance when I led off to the minister: How many hospitals? How many millions of dollars? A simple question.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In light of the questions being raised and also my interest in this subject, I have asked ministry officials to gather together the very information the leader of the third party has requested. If he would like to put it in the form of a question in Orders and Notices, I would be pleased to respond.

Mr. Brandt: I can see that we are going to proceed by very small inches with respect to information on this particular topic. I want to be helpful to the minister, because this is not a good day for her. This is a very difficult day for her in the House, I can see.

On the basis of public information to which I have access and certainly to which the minister should have access, my staff has put together figures for the hospitals and the universities—for the information of the Treasurer as well—which

are involved in leaseback arrangements, all publicly reported.

There are five hospitals and two universities which have publicly indicated and confirmed that they are involved in leasebacks. The amount of money involved is over \$200-million worth of equipment, which has been bought and paid for by the taxpayers of Ontario and has ultimately been sold to private investors. That is only seven institutions. Can the minister tell us, at the very least, how many hospitals have entered into leaseback arrangements?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the questions of today and yesterday raise the importance of the initiative the Treasurer took in placing a moratorium on sale-and-leasebacks. I fully support the action he has taken, because it will give me an opportunity to discuss this issue with the Ontario Hospital Association and some of those hospitals which have practised this in the past.

The specific information the leader of the third party requests could be available if he would like to ask for that as an order paper question.

Let me say that the one delegation of authority as minister which I have done with an open heart and wholeheartedly was to delegate the responsibility under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to ensure that all members of the public have timely and easy access to information from the Ministry of Health.

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CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Eves: I, too, have a question for the Minister of Health. A few moments ago, in response to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), the minister said she was taking a co-operative, consultative approach with respect to Cambridge Memorial Hospital, but we, too, just confirmed with the administrator of the hospital that he was totally unaware of the announcement that the minister is making today until she stood up in this House and made it. Is this her idea of a co-operative, consultative approach? Is this how she intends to operate with respect to hospitals across the province and deficits?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry officials were very clear in their concern about the hospital's plans. We believe very strongly that the hospitals cannot work in isolation, and the action taken today, I believe, is appropriate to ensure that we maintain essential services in the community.

Mr. Eves: On the second page of the minister's statement today, the third item of information is, as she refers to it, "the economic impact of the transfer of moneys from the hospital operations into the Cambridge Memorial Hospital fund," better known as the capital reserve fund. The Ministry of Health's hospitals' operating procedures booklet, if the minister will refer to section 2, subsection 2, says that hospitals should set aside money for their capital funds.

In Dr. Barkin's famous letter asking hospitals to realign their services, as the minister and he choose to put it, it also says to hospitals that they are to set aside some of their funds for capital funding, a capital reserve fund. How does the minister explain that this is supposedly some breach by Cambridge hospital of what it is supposed to be doing?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Let me reiterate something I have said in this House before: The majority of the hospitals in this province meet their budgets. A significant number, some 25 per cent, have been having regular surpluses. We know that they provide excellent care to our communities.

On the other hand, as I have said, they cannot work in isolation, and I am looking forward to the report from Mr. Stoughton so that I can ensure not only quality care but also responsible fiscal management in our hospitals.

Mr. Eves: The minister has referred in the House this afternoon to an open approach, to a consultative approach, to a co-operative approach with the hospitals. Will she table in the House this afternoon the 22 reviews of the 22 hospitals with deficit problems? This is an open and frank government, this is true democracy here in Ontario. The taxpayers have paid for those reviews. The minister has had 41 days to go over them. Will she table them in the House so the people of Ontario can see what is happening with their health care system in Ontario?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: From the very beginning of this process I have clearly shared with all the members what that process would be.

The first phase of this two-pronged process is that we would conduct a review of some 22 hospitals experiencing chronic problems. Second, we would bring those together and we would work with the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Council of Administrators of Teaching Hospitals, the Ontario Medical Association and the Ontario Nurses' Association and share that information as we look for the root causes of those deficits.

The second phase is to look at the overall remuneration system of how we fund those hospitals. That process is ongoing and not complete. When the process is complete, I will be pleased to share that information with members of the House.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Morin-Strom: I have a question as well for the Minister of Health about the underfunding of health care in northern Ontario. Perhaps she may want to redirect it to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), who has been cheering on her answers all afternoon to this point.

The minister knows that the General Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie had a deficit of \$1.2 million last year. Because of a projected deficit of \$2.4 million for the upcoming year, they have recently announced major cutbacks across the board, including staff cuts and the closure of beds. These will include the closure of five beds in their paediatrics unit as well as five of 16 beds in their modified level III neonatal intensive-care unit, a regional unit serving all of northern Ontario.

Why is the minister cutting these vital health services to women and children across the north?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think again it is important to reiterate what it is that we are trying to accomplish. We have a planning and an approval process within the ministry. Annually, the ministry approves budgets of hospitals, and that is based on approved programs. We then expect those hospitals to manage within resources, like every other institution in this province.

Mr. Morin-Strom: Certainly that response is of no comfort at all to the General Hospital or to the people, and the women especially, in northern Ontario.

Last fall the minister's Advisory Committee on Reproductive Care issued a report, Reproductive Care: Towards the 1990's, which emphasized the need for neonatal and perinatal care in northern Ontario. The report recommends: "Immediate measures need to be taken by the Ministry of Health to train, recruit and sustain obstetrical, neonatal, perinatal and anaesthesia specialists in northern Ontario so that mothers and newborns will receive the same care as is available in southern Ontario."

Instead of closing neonatal beds in Sault Ste. Marie, why will the minister not act on these recommendations and give women in northern Ontario the same reproductive services enjoyed by women in the south?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The specific question the member asks is a very important one. Ontario is a world leader in perinatal and neonatal care, and Sault Ste. Marie is acknowledged as a centre of excellence. In fact, in hospital funding, we acknowledge this by the fact that our neonatal level III intensive services are provided additional funds under life-support systems when that is determined necessary.

At this time, we are reviewing the service provided in Sault Ste. Marie so that we can make sure the capacity is there to meet the needs.

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Health. It relates to the question of the deficit problems suffered by 22 hospitals across the province and the ministry's response to what has become an increasingly urgent health care problem for the citizens of this province.

We have seen the bloody-minded approach of the minister when it comes to Cambridge Memorial Hospital. I would like to deal with what appeared at first blush to be a capitulation by the ministry at the 11th hour with respect to the St. Mary's General Hospital system.

The minister will know that last year's deficit was \$1.46 million for St. Mary's hospital in Timmins. This year it is projected to be \$2.2 million.

I have carefully analysed the minister's statements on Monday of this week in the Legislature with respect to the funding of St. Mary's hospital. The response of the minister is important when it comes to the other 21 hospitals which are suffering from deficits. Therefore, in light of the minister's answers on Monday, is she going to pay the total accumulated deficit of St. Mary's hospital? If so, when? Are all existing programs essential? When will they be approved? How much money will be—

Mr. Speaker: Order. There are quite a number of questions there.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The member for Cochrane South, in whose riding St. Mary's hospital is located, has raised once again the issue of how we are proceeding with these reviews and how we are going to achieve our goal of providing the highest-quality service in a fiscally responsible way in a well-planned and well-managed system of hospital delivery of care.

St. Mary's is a very good example of where the Ministry of Health had not yet acknowledged in the base budget the funding requirements for the success of our underserved area program. I have said repeatedly in this House that when, through that review process, we determine that

the base has not acknowledged the funding approvals from the ministry, we will make those adjustments. The corollary to that, of course, is that where we find there are unapproved programs, that is unacceptable.

Mr. Pope: We are talking about St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, with an accumulated deficit of \$3.66 million, and the deficit problems of another 21 hospitals in Ontario and the response of this government and this minister to their problems.

I think the other 21 hospitals and the people who enjoy St. Mary's hospital services are entitled to know exactly what she means. Her officials were there Monday. They have been back. It was the first issue in the Legislature on Monday that she had to answer. She has now had time to be briefed. I think we are entitled to know: will the minister pay the total accumulated deficit of \$3.66 million? If so, when? Will she designate all existing services as essential? Will she increase the base budget; and if so, by how much and when?

1430

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Pope: These are the basic economic issues that confront the board and we are entitled to an answer. Now, what is the answer?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I know the hospital has responded with a public statement, and I am pleased to inform the member that there will be no staff cutbacks or cutbacks in services at St. Mary's General Hospital. The ministry has allocated funding from the underserved area program and has enhanced the base so that St. Mary's can maintain existing staff and service levels.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for St. Catharines-Brock.

Mr. Dietsch: I hate to be out of style today, but my question is for the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara).

Mr. Pope: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think the minister might want to rise right now and correct the record. The base budget of St. Mary's hospital has not been adjusted.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for St. Catharines-Brock.

BERYLLIUM FUMES

Mr. Dietsch: My question is for the Minister of Labour. I have been aware for a number of years that the residents of the Fitzgerald neighbourhood in St. Catharines-Brock have been

facing a fugitive emission problem, originating at the Burnstein foundry since 1970. I understand as well that the workers in the plant are also concerned with the concentrations of the heavy metal beryllium that have built up internally.

My question to the minister is: what steps are being taken to make this plant safe for those inside as well as outside in the community of St. Catharines-Brock?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I understand the concern the member for St. Catharines-Brock has on this issue and I thank him as well for notice that he was going to be pressing me on this issue. I can now tell my colleague that control orders have been issued by both my ministry and the Ministry of the Environment.

Beryllium fumes had been occurring in concentrations of up to five times the acceptable level inside the plant during pouring operations. On March 9, 1988, my ministry issued orders to the company to put in engineering controls in the form of mechanical ventilation. This order was placed in concert with the Ministry of the Environment control orders, both of which should improve dramatically, I should say, the safety not only of the workers but also of the people in the surrounding community.

Mr. Dietsch: The neighbourhood ratepayers have expressed some serious concern that the main Ministry of the Environment control order, which will reduce emissions into the community, has been held up for some six months at the request of the Minister of Labour. Why has the minister delayed this control order that has been so long awaited by the people of the Fitzgerald neighbourhood?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If I can just explain to the House and to my friend the member for St. Catharines-Brock, the control order has not been delayed. What has been requested by the Ministry of Labour is an extension of the Ministry of the Environment control order from a period of 30 days to 200 days. This does not mean the control order program has not been extended. What it does mean is that it gives us an opportunity to demand a far more sophisticated system.

Mr. Mackenzie: You are not serious.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I tell my friend the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) that the Ministry of the Environment control order had called for the boarding up of windows on the George Street side of the factory. The boarding up of those windows would have exposed the workers to a far higher level of beryllium.

Instead, what we have had, after consultations between the two ministries, is a system where we can require a comprehensive ventilation system so that not only the people in the community but the workers inside the facility as well will not be exposed to beryllium.

The safety of the workers has to be as important as the safety of the surrounding community, and I think with the extension period and the more sophisticated system we have achieved both objectives.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Farnan: Two months ago in this House I urged the Minister of Health to inform the Cambridge Memorial Hospital immediately whether or not it would be receiving a grant. I used the date of April 19, when her ministry officials were meeting with the Cambridge board. No response. The minister came to me personally and promised that she would brief me on the Cambridge situation. The minister has never briefed me and never called me for such a briefing.

The announcement today came without the Cambridge hospital board's being aware of such an announcement, and yet the minister's officials met with the board just yesterday and gave no indication that this announcement was coming today. I ask the minister, is this the way to run a ministry? Are we going to go along with subterfuge and deceit, or is there a better way in which to run a ministry, with openness, with honest dialogue so that the people she is talking to know what they—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I listened very carefully and probably we should all tone down our comments and stay a little more relaxed.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I caution the member to be sure his criticism is responsible. It is very important that we have, within the hospital sector, quality of care, good and responsible management and fiscal responsibility. The boards have a very important function. I expect to work closely with those hospitals and I expect them to work closely with the ministry. We cannot have hospitals working independently and expecting the ministry simply to pick up the bill.

The Cambridge hospital, as I informed the member some time ago, has had a number of deficits and has been suggesting what we consider to be inappropriate solutions to some of the resulting deficits from its taking actions that we consider to be questionable. I am looking forward to the results of the review that the

investigator, Mr. Stoughton, will give to me about the actions of the board and the administration so that I can ensure essential services are maintained in Cambridge.

Mr. Farnan: Patient days have increased over the last year in Cambridge Memorial Hospital from 136,700 to 140,363. Admissions have increased by over 7.3 per cent. We know it is a growth area. We have had reviews. We have had dialogues. In speaking to the administrator of the hospital, indeed he says they welcome review, but they have been through a review and they have been through a review of a review. The minister's modus operandi for running her ministry is to have a review of a review of a review. That is not running the health system.

Mr. Speaker: And the question would be?

Mr. Farnan: I ask the minister: is it not about time that she changed her modus operandi from review, review, review to care, care, care and action, action, action, and financed these much-needed hospital and health care centres in our province?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We have had several examples in the past in this province of hospitals that have experienced difficulties with chronic deficit problems. One example is a hospital which, some four years ago, was providing good quality care and today is providing superb quality care. Instead of running the deficit of four years ago, it is running on a balanced budget and has surpluses. That institution is now an international example of efficient management; that is Sunnybrook Medical Centre.

Mr. Harris: The minister today read a strong, condemning statement about the administration and management of the Cambridge hospital. She has indicated to us that it is based on an administrative review or a peer review that was done at the request of the hospital. Those reviews are done at the request of the hospital. They request a peer review to justify why they need an increase in their base. The minister made a strong statement today on the basis of that review, condemning this hospital, and yet she refuses to table that review in this Legislature, to give it to the opposition parties.

Can she give us one single, solitary, good reason why that review, requested by the hospital, paid for by public funds and upon which she has read the most condemning statement I have ever heard read in this House, should not be tabled today with this Legislature?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I ask the member opposite not to put words in my mouth. I looked through the statement as he was reading and there were several words he used that I have not used. I have attempted not to be inflammatory in this House and urge him to assume that same style. What I have said is that when the reviews are complete and we are finished with the examination, I will be happy to see that those are available to members of the House.

Mr. Harris: She has said "when the reviews are complete." She has had this review for some 41 days now. She has analysed it to the extent that she felt obliged to make this statement she made today. She has analysed it to the extent that she has decided on the action she is going to take. The action she is going to take is that she is going to appoint Vickery Stoughton to go in and do the investigation. She has already said, "This is the action I am taking."

We are saying, is it not fair and is it not reasonable, if she has analysed it, made her decision and this is what she is going to do, that we have an opportunity, and the public have an opportunity, to judge the basis on which she made that decision?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have been very clear in this House as to process. We have reviewed the 22 hospitals. We now have those 22 reviews which we are reviewing together to look for chronic root problems so that we can solve the problem of hospital deficits on an ongoing, long-term basis. At the same time, we are looking at the individual hospital situations and responding as we believe is appropriate in the best interests of maintaining essential services in a responsible way.

Mr. Brandt: When will it be released? When will we get it? That is the question. It is not about the 22 hospitals.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: You tried to close the hospitals.

Mr. Brandt: We want an answer today. We didn't get one answer today, not one; or yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

DISCOUNTS ON MOTOR VEHICLES

Mr. Lipsett: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. From time to time, motor vehicle dealers offer potential new-car buyers one of two discount purchase options, a cash rebate or a low-rate interest finance plan. Why does his ministry not

allow Ontario dealers the opportunity to offer a choice of the two options to their customers?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: First, let me say to my friend the member for Grey, so that he presumably can tell his dealers, that we do not prohibit the automobile dealers or manufacturers from offering either a cash rebate or a low-interest option. What we do require is that if they want to offer that option, they have to disclose the true cost of borrowing and the true interest rate. If I could use an example very briefly, in a case where it is a \$750 rebate or a certain amount of financing, they must disclose the true amount of financing, including the \$750. In that case, rather than being 3.9 per cent, it turns out to be a true cost of borrowing of 12.2 per cent.

Mr. Lipsett: Since other provinces do allow customer choice in this matter, does the minister feel this policy is in the best interest of our consumers?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: Certainly the honourable member is correct that Ontario is the only province, in fact maybe the only jurisdiction in North America, that has taken the position we have taken. I can tell the honourable member that the motor vehicle manufacturers challenged the position the ministry had taken in court late last year, and earlier this spring Mr. Justice Maloney delivered a decision that was favourable to the ministry.

I should read just a portion of that decision because I think it is important that the House and automobile dealers understand the position His Honour took. He said, "On any common sense interpretation, the waived rebate must be included in the cost of financing." He went on to say: "Obviously, the rebate which would otherwise have been available to the purchaser is buried in the transaction in place of what would otherwise have been shown as interest. It would be naïve to think otherwise."

I think that position the judge took is a very important one and I note the motor vehicle manufacturers have accepted that ruling and have not appealed it.

RICHMOND HILL LAND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, following up some of the questions I put to him yesterday. He said in answer to my question that there was an investigation of a kind under way with respect to the Gormley industrial development, as I understood his answer. The minister will know that allegations with respect to the assembly of land, the rezoning of land and the incredible specula-

tion in the value of that land involve not only that particular land assembly project, but also the so-called 16th Avenue site in Richmond Hill and questions around the jail farm site and the Wilcox Lake development. The minister will, I am sure, be aware of all of those.

Can he tell us, is it his intention to ask Mr. Hamblin to investigate all these questions or is he simply looking in a very restricted way at the one question involving the Gormley industrial development?

Hon. Mr. Eakins: Our ministry is responding to the citizens who have asked our ministry to look into the administrative practices of the town of Richmond Hill and we are responding according to the act. If some 50 residents ask this to be looked into, we will do that. That is simply what we are doing, responding to the residents of Richmond Hill.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister does not have to just do that. He should have a look at section 10 of the Municipal Affairs Act.

I ask the minister how he would feel if he were a farmer and he went to the mayor of the town and said: "I am retiring. I have been in farming and my family has been in farming for 100 years. I am planning to sell. Do you have any plans for this land?" The mayor says, "Your land is going to be farm land for another 10 or 20 years. The farmer turns around and sells that land for \$23,000 an acre and in the space of two years that land is changing hands at \$100,000 an acre.

If the minister were in that position as a farmer I wonder how he would feel, if he would not feel that his provincial government was the one government he would expect to be fighting on his behalf to see that he simply was not taken advantage of in the way that appears to have happened in York region in the last few years.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I think we have to be very careful here. The practices we are looking into are all those in connection with the administrative practices of the town of Richmond Hill. If the member is referring to a conflict of interest, that then becomes a criminal charge; and as I said yesterday the Ontario Provincial Police has an investigation in which it is looking into certain allegations.

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Pollock: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. Will the minister tell this House exactly how many provincial parks he has designated under the regulations since 1985?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think I would be just a little too quick if I responded to that without examining precisely where we are. We are in fact examining that in great depth. I will be prepared within the next day or two to give the member a full report on the numbers that have been regulated since we took over as a government, and where we are going with the future parks.

Mr. Pollock: It is my understanding the minister has only designated 14 parks of the 65 provincial parks he originally said he was going to designate. That is only 20 per cent of that total. It is my understanding the minister was seriously considering closing two provincial parks. Will the minister live up to his promise and commit that provincial park network?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This causes me to share, just to a small degree, the kind of initiative that is being taken in Ontario. The member is going to be very pleased when he sees that this government over the next while is going to provide to the people of Ontario more parks, the best parks there are anywhere in the world, in the kind of numbers that will entertain anyone who wants to use them, for wilderness experience, for camping and hunting, for all of those things. It is going to be done in a way that is going to bring a smile to the member's face and to the face of every other user of parks.

1450

TRADE WITH EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of being part of a trade delegation to the Hanover Industrial Fair. As the minister knows, the Hanover Industrial Fair is the largest industrial fair in the western world, with over 6,000 exhibitors from all over the world.

Somewhat to my surprise, a key question discussed by many European newspapers on the occasion of the fair was the free market plans to be set in place by 1992 in all member countries of the European Community. The establishment of a totally unrestricted trading zone for some 300 million people will be of major impact on all export-oriented economies. In the interest of monitoring, or better still increasing, Ontario's international trade, my question to the minister is, therefore, does he agree with the importance of this date and how is his ministry preparing for 1992?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Members should know that outside of the United States, the largest

market that Ontario has is western Europe under the European Community; 80 per cent—

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Is the Premier (Mr. Peterson) not going to wait for my question?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sorry to interrupt the minister, but I remind the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) of standing order 24(b)—he should be very familiar with it.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I made the mistake of telling the Premier I was going to ask him a question, so he left.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I will just repeat that next to the United States, the largest market Ontario has is western Europe, with 80 per cent of our sales going to the European Community, so we are of course very conscious of the fact that in 1992 there will be one economic union; there will be opportunities but there will also be challenges. We are currently doing a review to see what the implications will be.

I should also say that there are several companies, Northern Telecom included, that are also looking at this issue.

Mr. Daigeler: I am pleased to know that preparations are under way to prepare for this significant date in Ontario. Quite frankly, I am somewhat surprised how little mention has been made in the North American press about this matter.

I would like to ask the minister, what is being done not only by his ministry but also to interest Ontario's industry leaders themselves in these new trading opportunities in Europe and in fact the world over?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am sure members will know that as part of our response to the bilateral trade agreement negotiated between the federal government and the United States, we have taken the stand that it is imperative that we not only deal with the United States but that we also diversify and deal with the Pacific Rim and Europe.

Our traditional partners in Europe have always been very good markets for us. We are currently meeting with the various trade delegations, the ministers of trade in those jurisdictions, and we are also sending trade missions to Europe. We are very active in that arena.

ADVOCACY SERVICES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have always had the capacity to clear a hall quickly, but I have never had this effect on the Premier (Mr. Peterson)

before. In the absence of the Premier and in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), who did not know I was going to ask the question, I will ask the question of the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons.

It was last August that Father Sean O'Sullivan finally reported on a review of advocacy in Ontario, entitled *You've Got A Friend*. I know Father O'Sullivan was hoping there would be a very quick response by the government in terms of legislation.

I would like to ask the minister why there is no mention in the budget of the new advocacy program for Ontario which was advocated in the report and why we have not seen that legislation still, these many, many months in the waiting?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I just want to let the honourable member know that I was receiving advice from the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), and I want to let the honourable member know that the Minister of Northern Development always speaks well of him.

I want to say to the member that we have been very active in having interministerial meetings regarding the report that has been prepared by Father O'Sullivan. Some months ago, after the report was first tabled, I took the opportunity to meet with him on several occasions to more clearly understand what he wished to accomplish.

Since that time, we have had meetings with the Attorney General, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney), the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and others. We have had meetings at the staff level.

The honourable member would know it takes a great deal of time to touch base with all the community groups that need to have their input into the system and to put forward a policy as a whole for the acceptance of the cabinet. It cannot be done simply by tabling a piece of legislation after a report like Father O'Sullivan's is done. It just cannot be done that way.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I am aware of the fact that the real problem in this process has been the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services and that this particular minister has been shut out of the role of co-ordinating this particular effort. I do know that.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We don't shut anybody out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The members may think it is not taking much time, but Father O'Sullivan's report was begun over a year and a half ago. I want the members to know that.

I would like to ask the minister about the Fram report on substitute decision-making, which is a crucial part of this whole process and which had attached to it draft legislation and was submitted to the ministry in December last year. Why have we not as yet seen that report tabled in this House, and why again is the legislation required to assist the vulnerable of Ontario not being brought forward? Is it the case now that there is not a friend in the—

Mr. Speaker: The minister. The question has been asked.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: —Ontario government for the vulnerable in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Mancini: I want to say to the honourable member across the floor whom I respect a great deal that his accusation is entirely incorrect.

We have not in any way tried to delay the process to fully consider the report which has been prepared by Father O'Sullivan. As a matter of fact, the working group was struck shortly after Father O'Sullivan did his report. The working group is at the present time preparing a report to five different ministers.

We are all working together and we hope in the very near future we will have something to say in a significant way in regard—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Mancini: —to the report that has been conducted and completed by Father O'Sullivan. I have recently spoken to Father O'Sullivan, and he is aware of what is going on.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mrs. Marland: My question is for the Minister of Government Services and I hope he is better at fulfilling promises than the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

The city of Scarborough has just released its report on changing the zoning of the Rouge Valley lands to recreational. The minister and his cabinet colleagues will soon have to make a decision on the future of this priceless heritage.

My question to the minister is, has he ever gone out to the Rouge Valley and walked through, not driven by, or does he know of any of his cabinet colleagues who have also walked through this precious area?

Hon. Mr. Patten: Yes, I have had the honour and the privilege of walking by parts of the valley. I have had the privilege of circling the whole area, in fact, in a helicopter so that I would get a fairly good appreciation of the land mass, because often one will notice that the television cameras will give only a shot of the valley lands and not a comprehensive picture. It is important to get an appreciation of that. I would think the members from Scarborough who are in cabinet—and there are two and the member knows both of them—have been through—

Hon. Mr. Mancini: There are three.

Hon. Mr. Patten: There are three; I am sorry. They have of course taken a great interest and have walked through that area and know it very well.

1500

Mrs. Marland: I am amazed that the evaluation and the future of the Rouge Valley is resting on a decision from a helicopter. For goodness' sake, that is incredible. I cannot believe the minister's answer.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: You have lost one of your props.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We are getting near the end of the question period. Perhaps the member would place the supplementary.

Mrs. Marland: It is our information that none of the members of the cabinet have ever actually walked through the Rouge Valley land. I am not talking about driving around or walking around. I am talking about walking through this 10,000 acres of land for which this cabinet has the future decision to make.

Mr. Pope: You can't get there by boat.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: You have lost your prop.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Place your question.

Mrs. Marland: My question to the minister is: how can the people of this province trust any decision made by this cabinet, when no one has actually ever been on this property, the future of which we are concerned about? How can they appreciate the property if they have not been on it?

Hon. Mr. Patten: I am somewhat disappointed, frankly, that the member would ask a question like that, when I am sure she might have wanted to ask a question of substance related to the Rouge Valley, and yet she asked a question of that nature.

Yesterday the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) walked through the valley. The Minister

of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips) has been through it 11 times in the last month. The Minister for Skills Development (Mr. Curling) has been through the area. How much more would the member like?

Mrs. Marland: Have you been through it?

Mr. Chairman: Order. That completes oral questions. It appears that we have to wait for a while to continue with the business of the House. Order. The member for Mississauga South completed her question, and the other members do not need to add to the confusion.

PETITIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Brandt: I have petitions signed by another 2,000 irate taxpayers in Ontario, and they are all here for the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) today. They read as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:"

A very simple, direct message—"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

This brings to 4,000 the number of petitions that have been submitted to the Treasurer requesting that he take action on his confiscatory budget. We ask the Treasurer to heed the cry of these people who want him to bring in a responsible budget.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Has the member signed the petition?

Mr. Brandt: Yes. Signed all 4,000 of them.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Brandt: Do you know that we have about 60,000 to 70,000 more?

Mr. Speaker: I would appreciate it very much if the members would show respect to other members who wish to place other petitions. The member for Mississauga East.

Mr. Sola: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a—

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Third rate publicity stunt.

Mr. Brandt: This is a fourth rate budget.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I bet you the photographer gets paid more than the leader of the third party.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Reville: Bob, those are your guys over on that end.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Want to frame that, Andy?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The best way may be to recess for a short while.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Sola: I have a petition reading:

"We petition the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and we wish to bring to our government's attention that we are concerned about preserving our environment.

"We strongly urge you to care about our forests, first, by seeing that reforestation is enforced in the lumbering industry, as well as selective harvesting; second, by preserving some of our forests in their natural state so that wildlife may continue to survive and people may enjoy the natural beauty of our land.

"We are also concerned about the quality of our waterways. The need to clean up the St. Lawrence River is currently in the news and we would urge you to get working on this. Our lakes and rivers are a resource which must be cared for regardless of cost. We need clean drinking water.

"We believe it is our duty to be good stewards of our environment. Please give this your strong support."

It is signed by 16 members of Bethesda United Church of Glen Forest.

CHRONIC CARE

Mr. Hampton: I have two petitions.

The first is a petition from the citizens of the community of Rainy River, a community where some 67 per cent of the population is now made up of senior citizens. The petition is addressed:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario to provide the citizens of Rainy River with a chronic care facility."

It is signed by some 400 people.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Hampton: Finally, a petition from the community of Wabigoon, a community which has recently learned that the school in the community will now be triple-graded.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"To provide quality education to smaller communities where triple-grading and possible closure of schools will affect our community seriously."

That is signed by all the members of the community.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS**

Mr. Beer from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill Pr56, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL**TOWN OF OAKVILLE ACT**

Mr. Carrothers moved first reading of Bill Pr48, An Act respecting the Town of Oakville.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION**MOTION TO SET ASIDE
ORDINARY BUSINESS**

Mr. Reville moved that pursuant to standing order 37(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside on Wednesday, May 11, 1988, to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, that being the government's decision to enforce budget constraints on all Ontario's hospitals, resulting in "service realignments"—which is another term for cutbacks in service—resulting in longer waiting lists for people needing surgery, and more use of emergency rooms and hallways to accommodate patients who need to be admitted to hospital, while doing nothing to provide funding for community-based alternatives to hospitals which, if put in place, would relieve some of the pressure on the hospitals.

1510

Mr. Speaker: Pursuant to standing order 37(a), Mr. Reville has moved a motion that the ordinary business of the House be set aside. I believe some members have received copies of that motion. This motion was received in my office in the proper time and therefore is in order. I will listen to the honourable member for up to five minutes as well as representatives from the other parties.

Mr. Reville: Members of the House may be feeling a slight sense of déjà vu. That is because this is the third day in a row that I have moved that the ordinary business of this House be set aside to debate a matter of urgent public importance. For two days, the government has used its majority to prevent such a debate from

occurring and, instead, has sent, first, the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. Elston), and second, the government House leader to stand before the House and discuss amusing and arcane Marquis of Queensberry-type rules because, clearly, this government does not have the gumption to face a debate on the crisis it has allowed to emerge in the health care system.

Day after day in this Legislature, members of this party and members of the third party have asked questions of the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) about problems that are real, problems that are being experienced daily in Ontario by citizens of Ontario, problems such as the one my leader raised in respect of Albert LeBel, who is going to be waiting 20 months to have his hip replaced.

In response to each of these questions we have seen the Minister of Health rise in her place, select the cue card of the moment and read back bureaucratic claptrap about fiscal responsibility that clearly must leave the citizens of Ontario wondering whether this government ever had any appreciation of what it is like to go to work every day with a hip so painful that it can hardly be borne.

The minister has identified 22 hospitals on a hit list. But it is not 22 hospitals; it is virtually every hospital in the province which must look at the services it currently provides and at those which it must cut so as to stay within the strictures placed on it by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). Such strictures are being placed on hospitals with the collusion of the Minister of Health, who has consistently refused to do anything that would take pressure off the hospitals and has consistently brought forward budgets to the Treasurer, and the Treasurer to this House, which show exactly the same funding patterns as in the past and, in fact, a continuing picayune fraction of health spending to support people in the community. Naturally, they will be in the hospital when in fact they are not going to be supported in the community.

This government clearly does not have a clue about what it is doing and has decided to make scapegoats. The situation in respect of the Cambridge Memorial Hospital strikes me as an absolutely shocking way to deal with the kinds of problems that the Cambridge Memorial Hospital is having to deal with. On one occasion, the minister showers a hospital with carrots, and on another occasion attempts to beat that hospital to death with a stick. One wonders who is going to carry the hatchet to these hospitals. Has Vic

Stoughton got enough time to drop in at the Brantford General Hospital? The member for Brantford (Mr. Neumann) probably should be going back home and waiting for that event. The Chatham Public General Hospital: who is going to carry the hatchet there?

Who is going to carry the hatchet to the Doctors' Hospital, Northwestern General Hospital and the Wellesley Hospital? Maybe the deputy minister will do that because, of course, he comes from the hospital that is held up as the cynosure for all eyes.

Who is going to go over to Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital? I wonder which hospital chairman from somewhere else will go and deliver them a hatchet in the health care of that community?

Who is going to drop down to St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital in London? That one will have to be a particularly good friend of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), you would think.

Who is going to go to St. Joseph's General Hospital in Peterborough? Maybe the chief government whip could handle that one.

Who will go to the Salvation Army Grace General Hospital, the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa and the Perley Hospital in Ottawa?

We have an emergency in the health care system in the province. We have a government that is afraid to stand in this House and join in a debate that would be about the health care system.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Reville: Obviously those remarks are so cogent, they will be agreed with.

Mr. Eves: It gives me pleasure to rise and again support the motion being made by my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville).

If the members on the government side of the House did not think there was an emergency in the health care system Monday or Tuesday of this week, surely, in light of the minister's rather shocking announcement in the Legislature this afternoon, they would have to concur that there is indeed an emergency in the health care system today, Wednesday, May 11, 1988, especially seeing as how the motion is drafted with respect to "service realignments," as referred to in the deputy minister's letter to hospitals across the province; also, especially seeing as how this particular motion is drafted with respect to deficits in hospital budgets across Ontario.

As I indicated in response to statements earlier this afternoon, I cannot believe the mean-spirited, retaliatory nature of the minister's statement in the House this afternoon.

In one of the fastest-growing areas in the province, we have a Minister of Health who says, on the one hand, that she is adopting a consultative, co-operative approach with respect to health care and with respect to this particular hospital and its particular problem. On the other hand, we have an acknowledgement that the hospital was not even informed that this statement was being made in the Legislature this afternoon. The hospital has to find out by hearing from the official opposition and the third party in the Ontario Legislature. That is how they find out about the statement that was made in the Legislature this afternoon.

That is true. The members know it; the minister knows it and she refused to deny it.

The report the minister is obviously acting upon she has had in her possession or possession of her ministry since March 31; some 41 days. If as my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) pointed out earlier this afternoon she can make a decision on what is in that report and her reaction to it, then surely she can make that document public knowledge. I would think that is the very least a Minister of Health could do.

That report is paid for by taxpayers' money. It is a public report. It is a report on the basis of which this minister did not have any problem standing in the House this afternoon and sending in an investigator from her ministry; condemning, virtually, the Cambridge hospital before it even had an opportunity to represent itself. She is obviously not taking a consultative or co-operative approach with respect to this issue at all.

We have the very inconsistent message that is being put out by this government. On the one hand, we have the Treasurer saying that absolutely no hospital deficit in this province will be funded, period, for whatever reason. That was a pretty clear-cut enunciation, I thought, of government policy. Then we have the Minister of Health responding to St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins earlier this week, saying: "Well, sorry, we made a mistake. In this case, we may fund part of that deficit. We will not permit the proposed cutbacks to go ahead." The minister does not say whether any other cutbacks may go ahead. She does not say she will fully fund their deficit. She does not say they will increase the base, or if so by how much.

I think hospitals, and rightly so, are very confused as to the message this government is sending out. I think the point made by my colleague for Riverdale is a very valid one. What are the people in Brantford supposed to think? Or those in Chatham, Cornwall or Grimsby West? Or St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph, St. Joseph's Hospital in London, St. Mary's Hospital in London, York County Hospital in Newmarket, North Bay Civic Hospital, Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital in Oakville, the Salvation Army Grace General Hospital in Ottawa, the Perley Hospital in Ottawa, the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa, St. Joseph's General Hospital in Peterborough, York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill, Stratford General Hospital in Stratford, McKellar General Hospital in Thunder Bay, the Doctors Hospital in Toronto, Northwestern General Hospital in Toronto, the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, Winchester District Memorial Hospital in eastern Ontario?

1520

What are the administrators and hospital boards in these hospitals supposed to think about the attitude that this minister and this government have shown in the last couple of days? I think the message they gave to the hospital administrators and boards across the province today, in the way they reacted to the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, is, "If you don't do as we say behind closed doors, we're going to come out in public and club you to death the next day and seek to withhold moneys from your hospital until you toe the line, until you do what this minister and this government want." This comes from a government that believes in open dialogue with people.

Taxpayers' money has gone to pay for these reviews. They have had 41 days to review 22 reviews. I do not know how many thousands of employees the Ministry of Health has. If Dr. Barkin himself would have taken one day for 21 days, these would have been done three weeks ago. What has the minister been doing for the last 41 days?

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Eves: Is there any other issue that is more urgent for this government to deal with than this here today?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We're opening an obstetrics unit in Clinton tomorrow which your government tried to close. How about that?

Mr. Eves: Your minister is closing beds faster.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: We're opening an obstetrics clinic in Clinton tomorrow. You must be talking tongue-in-cheek.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell). You are wasting the members' time.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I have listened with particular interest to the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) and the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves). What I have heard the members opposite say is, in the main, they do not like either the budgetary policy or the health care policy of this government; and that from a parliamentary opposition, I must tell the members, is not a particular surprise.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, to you and my colleagues opposite—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: —that it is my view that this motion from the member for Riverdale does in no way meet the requirements set out in standing order 37, and on that basis I say to my friend the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) that the government does not favour it.

Having said that, I would encourage my friends opposite; if they want to debate the budgetary policy or the health care policy of this government, they are perfectly able to do so by either engaging—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I say to my colleagues opposite that if they wish to engage the Legislature on a debate about these matters, they have a perfectly good opportunity tomorrow in the debate on the concurrence motion. I want to say the government has urgent business that it wants to proceed with. We have before the House this afternoon school board legislation that is pressing, because it involves the upcoming elections. My friends opposite will know that Orders and Notices also contains important legislation affecting the economic development and future of northern Ontario, and that is business that is urgent for much of this province.

I say to my friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) and others, let us proceed today to deal with that very important business which presses upon this Legislature and, if they wish to debate the issues affecting the health care policy of this government, let us proceed to do that tomorrow when there is a perfect opportunity

in a debate on the motion standing in my name for the concurrence of the estimates of 1987-88.

Mr. Pouliot: You're moving to the right, Sean.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for Lake Nipigon.

We have dealt with standing orders 37(a), (b) and (c), and according to standing order 37(d), I must now put the question.

1802

The House divided on whether the debate should proceed, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Brandt, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Eves, Farnan, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mackenzie, Marland, Martel, McCague, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pollock, Pope, Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Sterling, Villeneuve, Wildman.

Nays

Beer, Bossy, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Cleary, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Epp, Faubert, Ferraro, Fontaine, Fulton, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Hart, Henderson, Kanter, Keyes, Kozyra, Kwinter, Leone, Lipsett;

Lupusella, MacDonald, Mahoney, Mancini, Matrundola, McClelland, McGuigan, McGuinity, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., O'Neil, H., O'Neill, Y., Patten, Phillips, G., Poirier, Polsinelli, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Ruprecht, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., South, Sullivan, Tatham, Velshi, Ward, Wrye.

Ayes 26; nays 65.

The House adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
|--|--|

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 62

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Thursday, May 12, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 12, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

EAST/CENTRAL ONTARIO RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMISSION ACT

Mr. Pollock moved second reading of Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation, of which he may retain any portion for the windup.

Mr. Pollock: I want to leave a few minutes for the wrapup.

I am pleased to actually have a chance to debate this bill. It is basically designed along the same lines as the Niagara Parks Commission or the St. Lawrence Parks Commission. It appoints a local group to actually look after this abandoned railroad line, assuming and presuming, of course, that it will have public ownership.

For the benefit of those people who do not know just exactly where this abandoned railroad line is, it runs from Picton right through to Lake St. Peter. That is known as the Marmora subdivision. It is actually broken into two divisions, the north and the south. What I am dealing with here this morning is basically the northern portion of that subdivision and a small portion of the south subdivision.

My bill actually relates to the little hamlet of Glen Ross, where it starts. At that particular point is where the old railroad crossed the Trent Canal. There is a swing bridge there. Let's face it, it has not swung in many a year and it would be unrealistic to think the government or anybody is going to maintain a swing bridge for recreation equipment or vehicles.

I start at that particular point, and from there for the first five or six miles, this abandoned railroad line runs through reasonably good farm land. Then it comes to a place the locals would know as the old rock, or Rawdon station. Actually, the railroad line runs out on to Flat Rock, and from there, through the northern part of Rawdon township and through Marmora

township and Madoc, it runs through class 5 or 6 farm land with maybe the odd pocket of class 4 farm land. When it gets into Tudor township, and from there back through Bancroft to Lake St. Peter, it is actually in the Canadian Shield or the Laurentian Shield and the land is extremely rough.

If this were a recreation trail, I am sure that snowmobiles would use it and it would provide access to some people to get to their property. It would be used for horseback riding, for skiing and for snowmobiles. Actually, the sled dogs are trained on this abandoned railroad line for the big sled-dog competition that they have each year in Marmora.

Back in 1985, the then Minister of Tourism and Recreation, the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins), commissioned a study which cost \$30,000. It recommends that this abandoned railroad line be taken over for public ownership.

This study addresses quite a few things. Of course, it relates some of the history of the abandoned railroad line. It also mentions costs and the revenue that would be gained from this abandoned line as a recreation trail. Also, it relates to the cost to maintain the trail. I question that a little bit because I think the revenues it is going to gain, and also the cost to maintain it, are exaggerated a little bit.

It also mentions certain safety concerns that would have to be addressed. This railroad crosses over a lot of township and county roads. It crosses Highway 7 and criss-crosses back and forth over Highway 62 four times. In one particular place where it crosses Highway 62 it is extremely dangerous. That would have to be addressed.

I might also mention that there is another subdivision that crosses the Marmora subdivision at a place called Anson, and this is known as the Corbyville subdivision, which runs all the way from Corbyville right through to Peterborough.

I know there is a controversy in one way. Most local farmers want that abandoned railroad to go back to the local land owners. But if you move a little way from the railroad land, you get an opinion from people that they figure the snow-

mobilers might better be riding on that abandoned railroad line than riding on private property, so there is a controversy there.

I might mention that I have told the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and some of the land owners about the Corbyville subdivision, that I am quite willing and agree that that particular subdivision should go back to the local land owners, because I think it is a little unrealistic to think every abandoned railroad in this province can be used as a recreation trail. The cost of keeping them up and maintaining them would be excessive.

I would like to compliment the government on the ads it had on television last winter in regard to safety. There was an ad that came on television, and it showed two snowmobilers talking. One was suggesting it was time to head down the trail home. The other fellow says, "Yeah, that's right, but I know a shortcut." Then it shows them riding off into the night, and then their obituary notices start appearing on the screen. One person who was watching that said, "That ad would certainly make you think."

1010

I am mentioning this because I had two snowmobilers go through the ice last winter in my riding alone, and if we can provide a recreation trail for these people to ride on rather than be out there on the rivers and lakes, and in some way prevent loss of life, even if we save one life it is worth it to have those trails out there.

One thing as far as a recreation trail is concerned is liability insurance. Once the ownership of that particular abandoned railway line is transferred to, say, a recreational trails commission, people will expect it to be maintained in that particular manner. As I mentioned, if there is a washout and somebody is hurt on that trail, there could be a chance of a liability suit. But in other cases—I mentioned that case of snowmobilers going through the ice, and there was a case about a month ago where an all-terrain vehicle with a chap on it ran into a tree and, once again, he lost his life—I do not know how you can actually justify a liability suit in those cases. You cannot go out and sue the lake; you cannot go out and sue the tree. We have trees on our county roads, our township roads and our provincial highways. I really do not know how there would be any more liability on a recreation trail than there would be on an ordinary road.

I would like to mention, too, that I have a lot of support from municipalities in my riding, especially those that this abandoned railway line goes through. I would like to read into the record the

names of these municipalities. They include the township of Rawdon; the township of Bangor, Wicklow and McClure; Sidney township; Faraday, Monteagle, Dungannon, Marmora and Lake township; and the village of Bancroft. I have also had endorsement from the villages of Stirling, Marmora and Madoc, the town of Parry Sound and the chamber of commerce of Parry Sound. Even in this particular report there are a lot of snowmobile clubs and horseback-riding clubs that recommend that this abandoned railway line be a recreation trail.

To inform members of what has taken place in other jurisdictions, I will just give out some statistics. There are 125 rails-to-trails in the United States. Twenty-seven states are involved. Many more are in the planning stages. In Britain, 20 railways are being converted. Part of the old logging line in British Columbia has also been converted to a recreation trail. Elroy-Sparta Trail in Wisconsin, which stretches 32 miles, is the United States' oldest rails-to-trails, and along that particular railroad line, campgrounds, bed-and-breakfast inns, restaurants and bicycle repair shops have sprung up. There are over 50,000 vacationers a year, which brings in over \$1 million in revenue from that particular recreation trail. The longest trail in the United States is the Luce Trail in Minnesota. It is 104 miles long.

Last year was the first time the United States federal government gave money to convert abandoned rails into trails. Last year it gave \$75,000 for this particular project. The state of Massachusetts leads all other states in funding rails-to-trails, with \$3 million directly earmarked for the purchase of abandoned railroad lines. The province of Nova Scotia is actively pursuing the development of abandoned railroad lines, and one stretches from Liverpool to Dartmouth. Nova Scotia has already purchased the land from Canadian National Railways.

A lot of people believe the provincial government should be the owner of this abandoned railroad line because it reaps the sales tax from snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. They also reap the gas tax from the gas these machines use and sales tax from, certainly, different things. I might mention, too, that in this study they recommended that there be a restaurant at both ends of this particular abandoned railroad line. This study, I should inform the House, deals basically with that portion from Marmora to Lake St. Peter.

I say that they recommend a restaurant at each end, but there are restaurants in Marmora, there are restaurants part-way back—the Log Cabin

Inn—and also in Bancroft, in Maynooth and at the Algonquin Lodge right at the far end of this abandoned railroad line, so I question whether they really need any more restaurants at this time.

I certainly would like to pay tribute to my staff, Graham Loughton and Ruth Martin, for the research they have done in getting this information. Also, there is a lady in my riding who has distributed a tremendous lot of petitions around through the riding. I have had the pleasure of presenting them to the Legislature. There were over 1,200 names on those petitions in support of this abandoned railroad line becoming a recreational trail.

I would ask all members of this assembly to join with me in supporting this bill. Let us hope that eventually we can get some constructive manner in which we can deal with these abandoned railroad lines. In a case where these particular railroad lines go through rough terrain, I think it just stands to reason that they should be recreational trails.

With that, I would reserve the rest of my time until after I hear the comments from some of my fellow members.

Mr. McGuigan: I wish to commend the member for Hastings-Peterborough for the work he has done in the preparation of this bill and, in addition, for the attention he has given to his constituents, especially concerning the rail line called the Marmora line.

The government has no quarrel with the concept of acquiring abandoned rail lines for recreational or other purposes. Indeed, I think it has a great deal of merit. My reason for withholding support is that the government believes that a commission is an expensive method of dealing with this exercise, and it would also commit the government to a very expensive venture, not only in this case but in many others.

As well, I believe we have the machinery in place already for acquiring land for the crown on a priority and need basis. The framework within the Ministry of Natural Resources is very capable of acquiring and managing crown land. In fact, as most members know, almost 87.7 per cent of the land in this province is owned by the ministry on behalf of the crown. We have the surveyors, the lawyers and the field staff to carry out the responsibilities, and they have the expertise. We do not believe, therefore, that it is advisable to create an extra body for this purpose.

1020

There are situations where the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) might want to

acquire lands, and even abandoned rail lines, because of their significance as part of a desirable wetland, or as part of a Carolinian forest in southern Ontario, or as an area of significant and scientific interest, perhaps even as part of a provincial park. But I do not think the minister is interested, because we have such competition for funds to purchase lands that we do not consider it to be a priority. This is not to say we do not consider the recreational component as one without significance. It has, but it does not have priority at the present time.

The minister is not prepared to acquire lands that carry very serious and costly liabilities strictly for recreational purposes. Such liabilities could be the cost of fencing in a situation where the perimeters stretch almost to infinity; that is, in relation to the enclosed area. Maintenance of these fences is a big problem. There is weed control, bridge repair—the member has mentioned we would not be expected to repair the swing bridge but I assume there are other bridges along the line—trail maintenance, drainage costs, erosion control, road crossings, litter and garbage, noise control and supporting facilities such as washrooms and, of course, law and order. As well, the government would not wish to cover the expense of a commission when we believe the system is in place and working well already.

The member for Hastings-Peterborough will be pleased to learn that we think abandoned railway lines could at some time be put to use for purposes such as he has suggested in his bill. However, we do not wish to give the perception that we see all railway lines as significant parcels for purchase. Instead, we choose to identify the merits of each within our criteria, assess the available funding and secure the taxpayer of the province from unnecessary expense.

If we deem a stretch of rail significant for natural, recreational or conservation uses, we then must determine if the funds are available for the purchase. Of course, if a stretch has a very high significance, we will look harder for those moneys. We must have a development and long-term management plan in place and it must be acceptable to the government. We do not wish to burden the district staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources or the taxpayers with a piece of land we cannot develop or manage because of the budget.

Therefore, we would rather see a municipality or user group be involved in a co-operative way. We would hope they would come up with a well-thought-out and sufficiently funded plan of action. If such a plan were presented to the

Ministry of Natural Resources and other government agencies, we would certainly give all due consideration to holding the deed to a piece of abandoned rail line for use by such a group. In fact, I encourage the ministry to listen and consider. Such a group could sell shares in a corporation, just as golf clubs or curling clubs sell shares to their user-members.

The members might think that is putting an onus or burden on the recreation people, but if they just stop to think of the thousands of dollars a good snow machine or an all-terrain vehicle costs, or the trucks and trailers they use to pull these machines around, they will realize that they are very costly and they already have a lot of money in it. It would seem reasonable to me that they would be willing to pay for their use. Tourist operators and municipalities could be interested in the recreational benefits and the subsequent economic benefits.

It is very easy, regardless of where one sits in this House, to suggest to the government what appears to be a legitimate enterprise. The problem is that more money has to be spent and that means more raised by taxes or cut from another program. Seldom does anyone hear from any side of the House where we should cut to accommodate needs.

As parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources, I am often called upon by the minister to meet with delegates from conservation authorities who come to Queen's Park in an effort to advance their particular projects. The projects most often have merit, but do not rank sufficiently high on a priority scale to receive funding at the time. There is simply not enough money. With conservation matters, we are obliged to give priority to those that hinge upon matters of risk to human life or risk to property, and as a result, recreational projects receive a smaller share of the available dollars.

The ministry stands ready to listen to any proposal, including the one offered by the member for Hastings-Peterborough. We are looking for significant lands that are supported by a group that proposes to develop and manage them in a way that meets with the interests of the Ministry of Natural Resources, but we must be assured we will not be left to take over the liabilities in the event of a default.

If funds are available and if these conditions are met, the Ministry of Natural Resources is willing to participate in a case-by-case, specific situation. This is consistent with the acquisition of any land, including abandoned rail lines.

I wish to make it clear that we do not condemn the bill, as it is well prepared by the thoughtful and honourable member for Hastings-Peterborough. Therefore, I want to close by saying that this bill is expensive and establishes a precedent and a perception that the government cannot afford. I ask all members to recognize these facts and give support to our position by defeating the motion.

Mr. Farnan: I rise to speak in support of the concept of recreational trails in general and of the bill brought forward by the member for Hastings-Peterborough in particular.

This is a concept and an issue that is close to my heart. Indeed, since my arrival at Queen's Park as the member for Cambridge, I have promoted the idea of converting abandoned railway lines into recreational corridors and linear parkways. I have written to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) on this matter. I have made the minister aware of the potential that exists for creating trails along a corridor running between Cambridge and Lynden. I have also raised the issue with the minister during daily question period.

I believe that in Ontario in 1988, and for several years now, we have been faced with a once-in-a-lifetime, perhaps a once-in-a-century opportunity. As the rail system shrinks, abandoned track becomes available, and as it does, we have the potential to convert these valuable rail corridors into public trails for running, walking, bicycling, wildlife conservation and observation, cross-country skiing, horseback riding and other uses.

I do not believe we want to see each and every abandoned line saved for public trails, but the abandonment process should include an evaluation of each of these lines for trails so that potentially excellent trails are not lost for ever.

Let me review some of the characteristics of rail corridors. Let me draw to the members' attention some of the features that make for outstanding trails—attributes, I might add, that are present in large measure in the proposed Cambridge-Lynden trail, in the Collingwood-Meaford trail and in the trail we are presently discussing, the rail corridor known as the Marmora subdivision.

For instance, rail corridors are flat or nearly level, and thus are generally usable, even by the elderly, the infirm and those in wheelchairs. Rail corridors traverse every conceivable environment from urban to suburban to rural, including farm land, river valleys, wetlands, industrial areas, residential tracts, forests and lake shores.

Rail corridors also include historically interesting structures such as stations, bridges, tunnels, mills, factories and canals, all of which enhance the trail user's experience. Rail corridors are often prime wildlife breeding and conservation areas, with remarkable collections of birds, small mammals and plants.

Rail corridors can represent a financial bargain to a community, with the price of a right of way amounting to only a fraction of the comparable cost of assembling a continuous corridor through a crowded and fragmented urban or suburban area. Rail trails represent an excellent way of increasing recreation in built-up areas.

Rail trails are being shown to increase property values of homes nearby, since a significant number of people will pay more to have a walking, running and bicycle trail in the vicinity of their neighbourhood. In fact, in some areas of the United States, real estate advertisements touting the close proximity to trails has caused an increase in the value of homes.

In some rural areas, particularly those hard hit by the impact of railroad abandonments, a rail trail can be a significant stimulus to a local economy, with trail users spending money on food, beverages, camping, hotels, bed and breakfast, bicycle rentals, crafts, souvenirs and gasoline. Indeed, studies in the United States show this to be true also.

1030

However, let me say this: I support the Marmora subdivision trail because in supporting this trail I support the entire concept. Rail companies are abandoning lines in dozens of small communities across the province, and my hope is that not only will this private member's bill win support, but also that the support for this bill today will signal to the government the value and advantage to our province of promoting and developing a broad network of such trails.

The key question, of course, is the manner of provincial involvement. I have urged the Minister of Tourism and Recreation to take a leadership role. I have urged the minister of the urgency and the necessity to demonstrate a political will that goes beyond simply providing assistance to study the problems of rails-to-trails conversions. Indeed, the member for Hastings-Peterborough has also encouraged more forthright involvement by the minister and his ministry.

For these trail corridors to be developed in a meaningful manner, there must be a commitment to implement a co-ordinated program. Many of these corridors often pass through several munic-

ipalities, and this makes co-ordination difficult and the need for a leadership role imperative. In my own area, for example, the rail line runs through Cambridge, North Dumfries, Brantford, South Dumfries and part of the village of Harriston, and ends up at the village of Lynden, thus passing through several communities.

Unfortunately, to date there is no evidence that this government, this ministry or this minister have the political will required to provide leadership and co-ordination. For the members present let me quote, from Hansard, the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. This was in response to my questioning. The minister said this, "This ministry is not involved in owning and operating recreational facilities."

I ask the minister, what does he consider Ontario Place to be if not a recreational facility? What is the domed stadium if not a recreational facility? Is this government more interested in providing facilities recreation-wise for the urban Metro area, while rural areas and cities away from Toronto are to have second-class recreational investment?

The minister made some rather innocuous comments. He says, for example, in answer again to my questions, "My ministry staff within both the ministry head office and the regional offices are looking very closely at the problem that exists." Is that not fine? Is that not wonderful? They are looking very closely at the problem. Again, he says: "It is our preference that in some way the different municipalities will co-ordinate this effort." This is not good enough.

I urge this minister to review his policy. There is very little to commend a mind frame or a mindset that simply says, "We have a policy and our policy does not allow us to be flexible, to be innovative and to meet new opportunities."

This type of inflexibility represents the type of bureaucratic inability to take advantage of opportunity. Ontario is at a moment of decision. We can give to our children and to generations to come a wonderful recreational facility, but it demands leadership on the part of the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. I hope the minister will review the policies of his ministry and demonstrate the necessary leadership.

It is precisely because these corridors pass through several communities, villages and townships that there exists a need for this provincial leadership, not the leadership of encouraging individual local governments to become involved, because such a policy and directions give no guarantee of final outcome. At best, bits and pieces may be converted. In the most extraordi-

nary circumstances, a continual trail of some significance might be the outcome; but this policy of this government, this direction, gives no guarantee that the best trails and the maximization of the best trails will be held in the public interest.

Indeed, the opposite is true. It is much more likely that we will end up with fragmented recreational facilities, and at worst, because of the lack of total co-operation of all the partners, all the municipalities involved, a precious opportunity will be lost for posterity. If this opportunity is lost for posterity, if this investment in the future recreational facilities for our children and generations to come is lost, it is this government and this ministry that must be held accountable.

Finally, in summing up, I would like to read from a letter of the president of the Grand Valley Trails Association, Betty Schneider, who says:

"It seems imperative that some action be taken immediately to preserve these corridors before they disappear. It seems logical, since these corridors already exist as quasi-public lands, that they be preserved and protected for some future public use. As well as trails, they may serve as future utility corridors. With the widespread distribution of railway lines, any long-range plans would ultimately involve local, regional, provincial and federal governments.

"It seems like a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore purpose and vitality to these lands. Let's not let this national resource slip through our fingers."

The member for Hastings-Peterborough is to be commended for bringing forward this bill. It deserves support. Support for this bill is support for the entire rails-to-trails concept.

I urge the members to support the rails-to-trails concept, and in so doing to invest in the quality of our recreational future.

Mr. Eves: I would also like to rise in support of the bill introduced by the member for Hastings-Peterborough. The first time this issue was brought to my attention was actually late in 1987 and early in 1988. Although it does not deal with the specific area referred to by the member, I want to point out to the House that the abandoned railway line we are talking about in my riding extends from Georgian Bay right through to the Ottawa area.

I would like to read from a letter sent to me by a constituent of mine, a councillor actually, for the town of Parry Sound, and a lady who is very active in the Parry Sound Chamber of Com-

merce, Nancy Cunningham. The letter is dated February 2, 1988, and she writes to me:

"Re: the Ottawa-Arnprior-Parry Sound Rail Line. The Parry Sound Area Chamber of Commerce has recently formed a task force to investigate the preservation of the abandoned Ottawa-Arnprior-Parry Sound railway, founded by J. R. Booth. The line, abandoned in 1974, runs some 264 miles from Georgian Bay to Ottawa, and the committee is interested in protecting this historic corridor against its potential loss.

"Portions of the rail line are presently being used as a recreational trail and the possibility of development of the entire line brings endless ideas of opportunity and community benefits to mind.

"Rights of way, such as this one, are a unique resource which should be protected by the government. Once lost, they can never be regained. With the growing importance of tourism in the economy of the country, the input that would be required to retain this corridor and others like it would be repaid many times over in the future.

"At present, the committee is in the information-gathering stage and wishes to inform you of our intentions."

On behalf of Mrs. Cunningham and others in the area, I did some investigating with respect to the Ministry of Natural Resources and received the following status report from the ministry.

With respect to the area of the rail line in the Georgian Bay area, we were informed that the township of Foley, just south of Parry Sound, was offered that part of the rail line and initially declined, but I am now led to believe the township of Foley has given its consent to go ahead and obtain that portion of the rail line until the provincial government decides what it is going to do.

The Bracebridge district office advised that MNR does not own anything of the line in its area, that CN initially offered the property to the federal, provincial and municipal governments in the area, all of which declined. They are now in the process, unfortunately, of offering some of this property to adjoining land owners. This covers the area from Fern Glen to Algonquin Park.

The Algonquin Park line is owned by Ontario; however, the ministry is of the opinion that nothing can be done in the park until a management plan has been reviewed. All the property is owned by the province; a presentation

to the management plan board which governs the park would be required.

In the Whitney-to-Madawaska area, high priority of purchase; MNR was in the process, and planned use for a provincial waterway park.

There has been strong involvement, of course, by the member for Hastings-Peterborough in the Hastings area with respect to the Marmora-Lake St. Peter line, and I understand this is being done on a piecemeal basis. I know that Mrs. Cunningham and her colleagues have also been approaching the federal level of government, asking for a freeze on sales to adjoining land owners, not only until her association can come up with a comprehensive plan but also hoping that Ontario will take some initiative and responsibility in this matter as well.

1040

I am informed by a letter of March 9, 1988, from Mrs. Cunningham, that she has been corresponding with the MPP for Hastings-Peterborough with respect to his private member's bill, which she supports, and that Foley township has now voted to purchase its section of the line. She understands that the township of Grattan, which intends to permit private land owners to acquire sections as soon as the township obtains title, is going to be a problem—that is a stretch of about three miles—along with a stretch near Carney that is being privately purchased, which are also known private areas.

I wanted to mention some of the background. I am afraid that, although the minister has said this is a good idea and a nice idea, I think he is leaving somewhat mixed signals out there with respect to the recreation community. I am reading from a letter from the minister dated March 21, 1988, to Mrs. Cunningham. He thanks her for her correspondence and indicates that the ministry has acquired the line between Highway 69 and Highway 11, as well as a section through Algonquin Park. Of course, they always owned the section through Algonquin Park.

It was pointed out by my colleague the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) that not only does this abandoned railway line have some use as a recreational trail, but it also has a use as far as the residents of west Parry Sound are concerned, as the natural site for the location of a natural gas pipeline in the future, so it could serve a dual purpose in that regard.

The minister goes on to state: "We are also acquiring the sections of the line that parallel the new Madawaska waterway park through the townships of Airy, Murchison and Dickens, on the east side of the park. The remaining sections

of the line have not been acquired because the government cannot justify the costs of line management, fencing, bridges, right-of-way upgrading and the associated costs unless these are related to existing programs. However, the ministry is prepared to consider rights of way on a case-by-case basis if local municipalities, interest groups and/or user organizations can present viable proposals to upgrade and manage these corridors. I would support your effort to put a case together for route protection and management."

I would think those are exactly the types of things that the Minister of Natural Resources should be doing himself. He has infinitely more resources—pardon the pun on words—available than do private citizens in Ontario. I think these people have done a great amount of background work. I might also note that in discussing sending out mixed signals, I am quoting here from a booklet from the Ministry of Natural Resources. It has the minister's name on it and introduces people to recreational trails in Ontario. Lo and behold, one of the trails described is the Seguin Trail, and it says, "The relative ease in travelling this trail is due to the origin as a bed of the old Arnprior and Parry Sound railway."

It goes on to describe the history of the route and certainly leaves everyone with the impression, visitors and permanent residents of Ontario alike, that the province has acquired the trail and is maintaining it and doing everything to keep it up to snuff. Obviously, as members can see from looking at the correspondence, the background and the comments made by the government here today, that is not the case, nor is this a brand-new issue.

Going back to November 1987, there was a Meeting of Minds Symposium on Recreational Trails in Ontario, held in Whitchurch-Stouffville, on Wednesday, November 18, 1987, and I am now looking at a letter addressed to the Premier (Mr. Peterson), dated December 10, 1987. It reiterates a resolution that was passed at that meeting:

"That the participants of the Meeting of Minds Symposium on Trails held on November 18, 1987, endorse the concept of use of abandoned railway rights of way for recreational purposes and request that the government of Ontario take immediate action to protect such corridors.

"The resolution was unanimously endorsed by representatives of various trail recreation organizations working in the interests of more than 570,000 residents of the province. We submit that the resolution recognizes the outdoor recrea-

tional interests and related businesses and industries of close to two million individuals of all ages.

"We are mindful that not all railway abandonments are suitable for recreational-trail use. However, in our role as the user interests, we believe we can best serve by indicating those corridors having the highest priority and those capable of providing essential linkage and trail systems. At the conclusion of the Meeting of Minds, two resolutions were put forward and both received unanimous endorsement of the trail representatives."

There is an endless list of groups that supported and attended this symposium and supported this resolution. Suffice it to say that they do represent some two million people in the province of Ontario, the list is practically endless and there are some very—one would think not necessarily compatible groups, but they all seem to be working together. I would suggest that the Minister of Natural Resources and the government of Ontario should pick up the ball and work with these concerned individuals to provide this very worthwhile enterprise. I support the member's bill.

Mr. Pelissero: I too would like to commend the member for Hastings-Peterborough for the work he has done in preparation of this particular piece of legislation and would like to spend a few minutes talking about some issues. I think it is important to identify the potential of abandoned railway lines within the province of Ontario.

Currently there are some 1,500 kilometres of railway rights of way that have been abandoned where the applications have been approved, there are another 800 that are under application and awaiting decision from the Canadian Transport Commission, and there is a potential for another 1,800 kilometres of lines that are vulnerable to abandonment. So we are looking at a potential of about 4,100 kilometres of abandoned railway lines.

What this particular member's bill is asking the province of Ontario to do is to establish a commission. To reinforce some of the comments that were made by the member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan), there is probably a more cost-effective method of dealing with the situation than establishing a commission and the bureaucracy and sometimes the cost that is associated with that.

In the abandonment of railway lines, certainly there is a process by which the railway lines, the federal government and the provincial and municipal governments determine whether, in

fact, the line is of use to them from a communications or transportation point of view or a tourist point of view. Indeed, local governments have taken the initiative in the past to request user groups to come together and put proposals, and those proposals are then brought forward as requests to the provincial government, usually the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

A number of private sector corporations, municipalities and public interest groups are expressing an increased interest in these abandoned railway lines as a means of establishing some type of recreational corridor. As an example, the county of Haliburton purchased a 21-mile abandoned Canadian National Railway line, which runs between Kinmount and Haliburton village, in September 1987, for \$31,000. The county plans to develop the line into a multi-use, four-season recreational trail in support of the local tourist industry. The Rideau Valley Heritage Railway Association proposes to assemble a tourist railway, operating steam trains, on 67 miles of former Canadian Pacific and CN track between Kingston and Harrowsmith Falls and Gananoque.

Again, the government funded a feasibility study and the results of that showed a potential major and positive impact on the tourist industry in the economy of eastern Ontario. Victoria county is in the process of developing a feasibility master plan for the acquisition and development of the county's abandoned railway for a recreational trail.

On February 8, when the member for Hastings-Peterborough tabled his piece of legislation for the Marmora-Lake St. Peter abandoned line, he proposed it be developed as a recreational trail. Indeed, my ministry, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, for which I serve as a parliamentary assistant, provided a \$30,000 planning grant towards this particular project. So I would take some exception to the member for Cambridge (Mr. Farnan) when he classifies our treatment, as a government and as a ministry, with respect to second-class citizens living outside of the Metropolitan Toronto area. Indeed, our support has been there for feasibility studies, for equipment acquisition for different types of programs, not necessarily just the domed stadium.

1050

I am saying, I guess, the means by which the government is proceeding, as it has done in the past, in encouraging local municipalities to take the initiative and really determine their own

needs for that abandoned section of the railway lines, is indeed the best way to proceed on this particular matter.

It is with that in mind that I have to say I am not going to be able to support this particular bill, again not because the concept is a bad one in terms of the Marmora-Lake St. Peter line, but because it asks for the establishment of an East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission. That, by its very nature, leaves an implication that we are going to be going out and purchasing all abandoned railway lines. Again, from the point of view of cost-effectiveness and managing limited resources, we feel that there are other mechanisms for achieving the same end. Certainly we would be willing to work with the member for Hastings-Peterborough to see that particular project come to fruition.

Again, the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, once a project from local municipalities or user groups has been approved, does provide some assistance, either in trail grooming equipment or, in some cases, even the actual acquisition of a particular railway line. It also provides some funds and assistance from an organizational and leadership development point of view, in particular, as well as the feasibility and the planning grants that we identified earlier, which are very important to ensure that a project is, in fact, feasible at all.

Again, I want to commend the member, who has himself recognized that in some cases trying to maintain all the lines, using his own words, would be excessive in terms of a cost point of view. I think the government's position in terms of judging it on a case-by-case basis is the best way to proceed at this particular time, but again, I want to commend the member for taking the initiative to champion his cause. Unfortunately, I will not be able to support his particular bill.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt for two minutes and 28 seconds.

Mr. Pollock: I will give the member for Nickel Belt one minute off my time, anyway.

Mr. Laughren: I simply want to reinforce the member for Cambridge in his support of the resolution by the member for Hastings-Peterborough, whom I commend for bringing it forward.

I can recall this being an issue several years ago. The former government did absolutely nothing about it, and the people who are now in government were castigating the then government for not proceeding. Now it seems as though all that has happened is that they have changed places in this chamber and changed positions on

this matter, because it really is something that would cost the government very little to bring in and would mean a great deal to the people in those communities.

Once again, I commend the member for Hastings-Peterborough for bringing this forward.

Mr. Pollock: I want to mention that I think the member for Essex-Kent is an outstanding member of this assembly, but I do not totally agree with all of his comments. Of course, I do not think anybody here has ever said that we want the government to take over all abandoned railroad lines.

I agree with his concern that there is liability out there, but let's face it—people have been snowmobiling on this particular abandoned railroad line that I am talking about ever since the tracks came up in 1985. In fact, they were snowmobiling there long before that. There has been hardly any maintenance done on that. I really do not blame CN Real Estate for trying to get rid of it. That is not its mandate.

He mentioned it should be looked after by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Well, we contacted the Ministry of Natural Resources shortly after the government took office in 1985, and he put it right in the letter that the government was not interested. So what is a person really supposed to do? It is not going to take it over, and yet it should be taken over by the Ministry of Natural Resources. I really cannot figure that one out.

As far as the member for Cambridge is concerned, I appreciate his comments. I thought he brought forth a really legitimate comment in the fact that they seem to have money for Ontario Place, the domed stadium, that sort of thing, but they do not have money once they get away from the Golden Horseshoe. I do not think that is fair. In fact, the former Minister of Tourism and Recreation and the present Minister of Tourism and Recreation voiced loud and clear that the former Tory government had forgotten about eastern Ontario as far as recreation was concerned.

Now the government has a chance to redeem itself and all it has come up with is a feasibility study. I appreciate that, but they have had the feasibility study and the feasibility study recommends that there be public ownership. As I say, what else can one do?

As far as establishing this East/Central Ontario Recreation Trails Commission, it is worded in such a way that it basically takes over this abandoned railroad line. But there are a few spur

lines, one running off this abandoned railroad line into Coe Hill, if they thought and felt in their wisdom that they would like to own that section. Basically, this just deals with this particular abandoned railroad line.

As I say, it goes through rough terrain. There are people from the south end of my riding who will hop on a snowmobile, ride back to Bancroft and spend the night there—this is on a weekend—at the Sword or the River Bend motor inns and then come back down the next day. They regard that as an outing, a good way to spend the weekend. It certainly helps with unemployment in the Bancroft area, where unemployment is usually a little higher than the norm.

Nobody here has yet said that every last one of these abandoned railroad lines is supposed to be a recreation trail, but there are abandoned lines out there that I firmly believe should be recreation trails.

I compliment the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) on his efforts to promote the line from Parry Sound to Arnprior and Ottawa.

This liability insurance seems to keep standing out there, but they claim that nobody can actually shift liability insurance. For instance, I have talked to people who have said, "Canadian National knows that there have been snowmobiles riding up and down that track for the last five, 10, 15 or 20 years." They cannot really excuse themselves from liability for those snowmobiles even though it is a recreation trail. They know they are there.

Yet that has never been an issue with them, to the best of my knowledge. I think one reason they want to get rid of these abandoned railroad lines is that they even pay taxes to the local township. As I say, that is not their mandate. The government will see that there will be all kinds of problems if these abandoned railroad lines start to go back to the local abutting land owners, because the land division courts will not pass it.

Those are just some of the comments I have made. I have run into that situation already where one abutting land owner wanted to actually buy this abandoned railroad line—not this one, but another one—and the land division court would not pass it.

SPEED LIMITS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Miclash moved resolution 26:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that great distances between communities in the north necessitate long periods of highway travel, and recognizing that speed limits in the United States and Manitoba are 90 kilometres per hour,

and recognizing the importance of encouraging tourism in northern Ontario from these two areas, and also recognizing that some northern roads have been upgraded but that speed limits have not correspondingly been increased, the government of Ontario should amend current legislation to increase speed limits on secondary highways in northern Ontario from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour where highway conditions warrant.

1100

Mr. Miclash: This resolution is of great interest to me and to the constituents of the Kenora riding as well as to other residents in northern Ontario. Highway travel has come a long way since 1923 when the speed limit was 25 miles per hour on the province's 2,976 kilometres of roadways. Today, 5,818,000 Ontarians drive 6,578,000 vehicles on the province's 132,510 kilometres of roads.

Transportation, particularly through the operation of vehicles on provincial roadways, is one of the linkages that bind communities together. Nowhere is this more important than in northern Ontario, where great distances and sparsely populated areas can make highway travel between communities a long and sometimes lonely experience. There are several reasons why I believe speed limits on secondary and King's highways in northern Ontario should be raised.

As I have mentioned, the distances in the north can necessitate long periods of travel in unpopulated areas. Time is an important resource for both businesses and private citizens of the north. A 10-kilometre increase in the speed limit would reduce travel times on long distances significantly.

Let me give some examples of distances in my riding. On Highway 105 from Red Lake to Vermilion Bay, we are looking at a total distance of 169 kilometres; from Sioux Lookout to Dinorwic, another secondary highway in my riding, Highway 72, a total distance of 68 kilometres; and from Fort Frances to Kenora, mostly on secondary highways, a total distance of 215 kilometres. All these distances are on secondary highways that are in good shape and will handle a higher rate of speed. These are distances of very sparse population and low traffic volumes.

Increasing the speed limits would also help to promote tourism from Manitoba and the United States, both of which have speed limits of 90 kilometres per hour plus. Tourism, as we know, is a very important generator of economic activity in the north and should be encouraged at

every opportunity. Currently, there is discussion in the United States about increasing the speed limits on many of the highways there. This would further increase the disparity between the speed limits in Ontario and those in the States.

I would also like to note that the time savings and encouragement of tourism promoted by a higher speed limit would not occur at the expense of safety or fuel efficiency. Studies in the United States have shown that speed limits of 90 kilometres per hour are both safe and efficient.

Finally, looking at comparative roads in southern Ontario, county roads in Middlesex county, near London, which are similar to our secondary highways in the north, have speed limits of 90 kilometres per hour at this time.

I wonder if I might take this opportunity to familiarize the members of this House with the recent history of highway speed limits in Ontario. Up until February 1976, the speed limit for cars was 112 kilometres per hour and the speed limit for trucks was 96 kilometres per hour on Ontario freeways. In February 1976, limits were lowered depending on the type of road. The following speed limits apply to all vehicles at this time: 100 kilometres per hour for multilane expressways, 90 for two-lane primary highways, 80 for secondary highways and 50 for builtup areas. Of course, we had varying lesser limits for things such as school zones, parks, bridges and construction zones.

Speed limits in Canada were lowered as part of a country-wide campaign to reduce oil consumption in the transportation sector in answer to the world oil crisis in 1973. In response to the Arab oil embargo of 1973, posted speed limits on highways were reduced to conserve scarce fuel supplies.

According to the United States Department of Transportation in its 55-miles-per-hour fact book, the medium energy efficient speed, taking into account wind velocity and engine efficiency factors, is 55 miles per hour or 90 kilometres per hour. A speed limit of 90 kilometres per hour is the speed that best balances engine efficiency, fuel efficiency and driver response times.

A survey of speed limits in other countries indicates that an increase of speed limits on roads in northern Ontario is not at all unreasonable. Speed limits for the following, given in kilometres per hour, are: Austria, 120; Belgium, 120-130; France, 120; Italy, 120—

Mr. Laughren: Have you seen the roads, Frank?

Mr. Miclash: I will make comment on that in a minute.

—Switzerland, 130; and United Kingdom, 112.

These figures will show that from a comparative perspective, an increase in 10 kilometres per hour is quite modest and, having travelled some of these countries, I can say from firsthand experience that our provincial secondary highways are in much better shape than those I describe in many of these countries.

On January 1, 1988, the Motor Vehicle Transport Act, 1987, came into effect. Contained in this act are new hours of service regulation that will govern the working hours of commercial truck drivers in Canada. Under the regulations, drivers can drive a maximum of 10 hours per shift and work a maximum of 15 hours per shift. A driver must have eight hours off duty before the beginning of the next shift. Twice a week, the driver is allowed to log 12-hour shifts.

Enforcement of this act will mean that trucking companies and drivers will be under increased time constraints. Increasing the speed limits on some secondary and King's highways in the province will assist trucking operations to remain cost-efficient while complying with the new regulations.

At this point, I would like to discuss the extent of support for increased speed limits in northern Ontario. The Ministry of Transportation has received requests from the following groups to increase these speed limits: 23 municipalities in northern Ontario; the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association; the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association.

Within the riding of Kenora, I have received support for increased speed limits from all of my municipalities. These include: Dryden, Keewatin, Kenora, Sioux Lookout, Ear Falls, the townships of Jaffray and Melick, the township of Golden, the township of Red Lake, the township of Barclay and the township of Machin.

Might I enter into the record three resolutions from some of these townships.

Adopted by the council of the town of Kenora:

"That this council support the private member's resolution of Mr. Frank Miclash, MPP Kenora, proposing that speed limits on secondary highways in northern Ontario be increased from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour."

The corporation of the township of Ear Falls:

"Whereas speed limits on highways such as the King's Highway 105 were 90 kilometres per hour prior to the gas crisis and even prior to hard surfacing; and

"Whereas distances between centres in northern Ontario are greater than those in the rest of Ontario; and

"Whereas speed limits of 80 kilometres per hour on highways in northern Ontario relegate us to secondary citizens;

"Therefore, be it resolved that council of the township of Ear Falls hereby supports the private member's resolution proposed by Frank Miclash, MPP Kenora, to have speed limits on Highway 105 and other highways in the province of Ontario increased to 90 kilometres per hour; and

"Further, that the Premier and cabinet support this long overdue change to speed limits on certain Ontario highways."

This is one from the corporation of the town of Keewatin:

"That the municipal council of the town of Keewatin support speed limits on secondary highways in northern Ontario being increased from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour."

I have also received support from several independent carriers in my riding who use these highways.

In summary, I would like to say that constituents in my riding have indicated their overwhelming support of this resolution. A 10-kilometre-per-hour increase in the speed limit on secondary roads and King's highways would allow residents of northern Ontario to save time and thereby increase both personal and commercial productivity.

I present this resolution because of the long distances between communities in the north, as well as in the hope that raising Ontario's speed limits to par with Manitoba and the United States will help to promote tourism for these regions.

I think it is important to recognize that speed limits were originally lowered because of the oil crisis in the 1970s. Today we are not faced with this impending oil crisis. While lower speed limits have served their purpose, I see no reason why they cannot be raised modestly.

A survey of speed limits in other countries showed that even if speed limits are increased 10 kilometres per hour, they will still be below almost every speed limit in the countries surveyed. The implication for the trucking industry also supports slightly higher speed limits. Most commercial truck engines are designed to run more efficiently at higher speeds. In addition, the saving of time would offset any higher fuel costs. Further, the new Motor Vehicle Transport Act, with its hours-of-service

restrictions, will increase pressure on trucking operations to remain financially viable.

I would like to reserve some time for concluding remarks.

1110

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to address this resolution presented by the member for Kenora. It is quite fascinating to see what the Liberal priority is for highways and for transportation networks in northern Ontario. It has very little to do with improving the highways or improving the transportation links in the north, but instead it is to look at issues like what the speed limit should be on the secondary highways.

I suggest to this Legislature that far too many of our secondary highways in northern Ontario are in such a state that the highway speed limit in fact should not even be 80 kilometres per hour and that they are unsafe at that kind of speed. We have highways across the north that have had lack of attention from this government, and in terms of improving our highways the only proposal that we can get from a member of the Liberal Party from the north has to do not with improving the quality of them, improving the links, improving our competitiveness in the north, but instead has to do with changing of the speed limits on highways which in fact are in terrible shape generally across northern Ontario.

I think it is interesting to look at the province's highway construction program for 1987-88. The province has approximately 50 per cent of its highways located in northern Ontario, but certainly it does not spend a proportional share of its funds on improving those highways. I have here the release, from the first day of this month, the highway construction projects for 1987-88 as set out by the Ontario Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton). His program includes five pages of highway programs for southern Ontario and then a page and a half of programs for northern Ontario, of which less than half are actually highway programs.

In fact, the major components of the highway program for northern Ontario include components such as, "In the northwestern region, four new 24-metre platform scales will be constructed at the following locations...." They go on: "An ongoing program to upgrade patrol yard facilities at a cost of \$3 million. Contracts for nine new sand-salt storage buildings in northern Ontario." Then they include, in their highway transport program, remote airport construction programs, the first phase of airport construction at Angling Lake, improvement in air transport. This covers

the largest part of this announcement of what is supposed to be the highway construction program in the north.

I have no complaints about improving those air links and the facilities that are in the smaller communities in the north, but there just is a lack of highway initiative going on in northern Ontario. In the most recent budget, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has committed to the north additional funding of \$12 million. That kind of a budget would allow one to construct approximately 12 miles of two-lane highway or six miles of four-lane highway.

In the summary of provincial highways construction projects 1987-88, the number of kilometres committed to multilane divided highways in southern Ontario is 113 kilometres. In northern Ontario, multilane highway commitment is five kilometres for the year. So we are generous when we say that they can do six to 12 miles of highway. In fact, all they are doing a year is five kilometres, approximately three miles of highway, across northern Ontario.

On the Trans-Canada Highway alone, we are talking about at least 1,000 miles to cover the links to Toronto on Highway 69 and Highway 11 and then to cover the Trans-Canada across northern Ontario. At the kind of expenditure rate this Liberal government is willing to commit to highways in the north, we are looking at a program that is going to take on the order of 150 years. In 150 years from now, we will have a modern highway in northern Ontario. That is the Liberal commitment to what is supposed to be the major transportation link connecting all the provinces of this country, the Trans-Canada Highway.

I would like members of the House to know that this is an issue of importance to everyone in northern Ontario. I get numerous letters on this issue. My most recent riding report was focused on the free-trade issue, but many, many of the comments that came back had to do with: "What is the government doing about highways in the north? Why can't we get them to act and to start a phased program of construction on the Trans-Canada Highway?"

As well, many of our secondary highways are still gravel. Many of them have not been upgraded or improved for at least a decade. Until we get some action on both the major links and the secondary highways, we are not going to go anywhere in terms of our competitiveness and in terms of providing a real transportation link across the north.

I would like to read from the latest issue, the May issue, of Northern Ontario Business. It is not too often I want to use Northern Ontario Business as a support for my point of view, but we have here a letter under the Viewpoint column on the opp-editorial page by John Wilson of the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce. He has chaired a task force of the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce which has looked at developing a case in favour of four-laning of Ontario's highways in northern Ontario. He says that after much deliberation, the subcommittee has reached the following conclusion:

"We do not want a four-lane highway system across northern Ontario. Our conclusion is based on the following assertions:

"1. We prefer to be the only province in Canada which is not significantly four-laned for the majority of its land mass.

"2. We prefer to have the most primitive highway system in North America.

"3. We like our two-lane highway as it provides more than an adequate barrier to interprovincial trade.

"4. Northern Ontario does not want to be competitive.

"5. Increased tourism and ease of traffic flow are not regional priorities.

"6. Northern industries are not concerned with just-in-time delivery and transportation costs.

"7. Major carriers prefer our narrow, windy, hilly roads with fully wooded rest areas.

"8. Equalization of services as it applies to highways is an invalid argument.

"9. Saultites prefer to drive the longer distance to Toronto via the Michigan interstate system than via our highways.

"10. Ten years is not even remotely enough time for the federal and provincial governments to reach an accord and to establish a game plan and financing regarding a progressive improvement in paved trade links.

"11. Safer transportation routes are a luxury, not a right, of the inhabitants of northern Ontario."

These are the kinds of arguments that the Liberal cabinet has obviously been using in order to stop the development of four-lane highways in northern Ontario. Obviously this parody of what the government positions are lays out very clearly the business community's concerns about our lack of highway infrastructure in northern Ontario. I would ask this Liberal government and the other members of the Legislature to question, in fact, what are the priorities of this government when the resolutions that come forward from

their members do not address the major concerns of the people of the north.

Transportation links are a major concern. We have the geography. We may have only 10 per cent of the population, but we have something on the order of 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the land mass of the province in northern Ontario. We have to have an efficient, competitive highway system, one that allows us to compete with other areas of North America. Until we have that, the north will not be in the kind of position I and others in the north would like us to be in.

I ask the members to look closely at this resolution and question what the Liberal priority really is today for highways in northern Ontario.

1120

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I had not intended to speak on this resolution. The member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) was to have been the speaker, but he has been unavoidably delayed with the House leaders' meeting. I will make a few comments and, hopefully, there will be time for the member for Nipissing to speak towards 12 o'clock.

I would like to rise and indicate our party's support for the resolution. I think it makes a lot of sense. I commend the member for Kenora (Mr. Miclash) for bringing the resolution forward and I hope the government will give consideration to his very reasonable request.

I think the key point that should be mentioned is the great distances involved in the north. I have had the opportunity on several occasions to travel both the northern and the southern routes to the provinces in the west, and I might just mention that, leaving my home town of Mount Forest, I could be at the Florida border in less time and with less distance travelled than if I were to head north and go to the Manitoba border. It indicates the vast distances that we have in this great province of Ontario.

Mr. Hampton: It takes less car too; less axles and less springs.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: The member mentions that he has been doing it for some time.

Because we have such vast distances to travel, I feel that if indeed highways are safe and there is no problem with increasing the speed limit because of the safety factor, I would encourage the government to give consideration to increasing the speed limit from 80 to 90 kilometres per hour. Because of the fact that the adjacent states in America have the 90-kilometre speed limit, and I understand Manitoba has as well, I think it would make more sense to these people to have a uniform speed limit.

It would encourage people to obey the traffic laws we have. When speed limits are set too low, when people are in a hurry to move across vast stretches of highway and there is no safety reason that they should not do so, then it makes a bit of a mockery out of keeping in existence the legislation that holds the highway traffic speed limit down too low. I think 10 kilometres an hour is not that great an increase and is certainly reasonable under the circumstances set out by the member for Kenora.

Madam Speaker, I would like to suggest that, hopefully, some time can be set aside for the member for Nipissing to present his case, and I will adjourn now with that understanding.

Mr. Lupusella: I would like to thank my colleague from Kenora.

Interjection.

Mr. Lupusella: It is unfortunate that the member from the New Democratic Party took the opportunity to attack government policies rather than address himself to the content of the resolution. Therefore, I am trying to do just that.

I would like to thank my colleague the member for Kenora for bringing to the attention of the House the improvements my ministry has made in northern highways. I also commend him for his efforts to boost tourism in the north, something I am sure we all favour.

Mr. Hampton: When were you up there?

Mr. Lupusella: I would like to remind the member that I toured all of northern Ontario. I also sympathize with him for the great distances his constituents and visitors to the scenic northwest must travel.

However, the Ministry of Transportation undertook a comprehensive evaluation of all Ontario's speed limits some 18 months ago, a study sparked by requests from various parties to raise existing limits. I would like to recall what the Minister of Transportation said when presenting the conclusions of that study:

"We know that 1,314 drivers and passengers were killed in motor vehicle accidents in 1975. Speed limits were lowered in 1976 and that figure fell to 1,109. It continued to decline until some 835 fatalities were registered last year."

The minister concluded, "I believe that is conclusive evidence that together with seatbelt usage, we are on the right track. We also found that despite requests from municipalities and businesses to raise speed limits, the majority of the general public was in favour of maintaining the current rates."

Those rates to which the minister referred in 1986 are those in effect today, those which my colleague would like to see raised in some areas. If those limits seem on the low side to my friend, there is other ministry research to consider. We have counters in the roadbeds of most Ontario highways to log traffic speed and volumes. They show consistently that the mass of the motoring public drives on an average at about 10 per cent over the posted speed limit. For example, when the speed limit on divided freeways was 70 miles per hour, the average speed of the traffic was 77 to 78 miles per hour. When it was reduced to 60 miles per hour, traffic speed dropped to 67 or 68 miles per hour. Therefore, there is already a cushion on the high side of the posted limit, a cushion that much of the motoring public takes for granted, despite our increased enforcement.

Our researchers, who study traffic accidents in the minutest detail, point out something often missed by people who argue for a faster average flow of traffic under certain conditions. It is that speed may not necessarily be the cause of the accident, but speed invariably dictates the severity of the accident. Why? Because it is a basic law of physics that the impact goes up by the square of the increased velocity. Therefore, a crash at 90 kilometres per hour is not marginally more severe than one at 80, it is 26 per cent more violent. That is often the difference between a crash that is fatal and that is survivable.

As I said at the outset, I can sympathize with my friend when he refers to the great distances our citizens and visitors have to travel over our northern highways. There are a lot of wide-open spaces. However, speed limits are designed to account for drivers' reaction time to the unexpected. As my colleague well knows, motor vehicles are not the only users of our northern highways. Moose, deer and occasionally bears cross them, often with little warning. The results for the motorist who is going too fast to stop or to take evasive action can be disastrous. In 1986 in Ontario four persons died in cars after collisions with large animals.

Again, I must say my colleague from Kenora raised a logical question in his resolution and has done so with the best of intentions. However, for all the reasons I have recited, our ministry must maintain that the present speed limits through the entire province are appropriate for the times. In essence, they will remain at 80 kilometres per hour on provincial highways other than the Trans-Canada Highway and the divided freeways.

1130

Mr. Hampton: Madam Speaker, it is with some pleasure that I have an opportunity to speak to this resolution because, as you may know, my constituency is next to that of the member for Kenora and I drive over many of the same highways he drives over. I have to admit, though, that I have not driven over all of the same roads that he has obviously driven over in Switzerland, Austria and whatever. I can only say that some I have driven over in those countries I would hesitate to compare to some of the secondary highways we have in northern Ontario.

I can only conclude that if I tried to drive at the rate he is advocating in terms of Austria and Switzerland, I would literally fly over the highway, flying from bump to bump. But I will leave that for now.

I want to speak to this resolution because it is one which does speak to a serious situation. In northern Ontario, we are separated by some very great distances between communities and we have, as anyone who reads a highway map of Ontario will agree, only secondary highways connecting our communities.

When one is required to travel at 80 kilometres over some of these roads, it does take a great deal of time to travel, let us say, from Fort Frances to Kenora, Kenora to Red Lake, Atikokan to Dryden, or Ignace to Sioux Lookout.

A couple of the of the so-called secondary highways, for example Highway 11, have been designated as 90-kilometre-per-hour highways. We also have a section of the Trans-Canada Highway, Highway 17, whereon you are permitted to drive at 90 kilometres per hour.

But I really do have to agree that I think the resolution here misses the main issue. The main issue is that many of these highways simply are not designed for 90-kilometre-per-hour traffic and would be rather difficult to negotiate at 90 kilometres per hour consistently throughout.

Let me give an example of the kind of situation that many of our communities in northern Ontario face. During the recent Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association convention, I had the opportunity to speak to some of the Ministry of Transportation district officials. I put the question to them, "What are your priorities in the next two years or what do you see as the priorities over the next few years in terms of highway maintenance and highway upgrading?" The response to me was: "We really do have a difficult time with that. You see, we're so short of funds that the only things we can do in terms of

highway maintenance and highway upgrading are those sections that absolutely need it the most. We recognize that a lot of areas of the highways are in very sad shape, but there is nothing we can do about it. We simply don't have the money. We can deal with only those sections of the highway that really need it the most."

I think that is a very sad comment on the situation that does prevail across much of northern Ontario in terms of highways.

While listening to the member for Kenora, I could not help but say to myself, "Gee, you know, the resolution speaks to something that many of us have an interest in, but where is the member for Fort William (Mrs. McLeod), where is the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra), where is the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Fontaine), where is the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) and where is the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay), to speak in support of the member's resolution?"

Instead, I see the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), and I think he would admit that he has probably seen most of northern Ontario from an airplane. I have to say that I think we would all have appreciated it if some of the government members who also reside in northern Ontario would at least have been here to lend greater support to the member for Kenora.

I note that the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) has just returned. After abandoning the member for Kenora to the wolves, he has returned. He must have been outside watching the monitor.

There are a couple of things which those northern members of the government could have learned if they had been here.

First of all, there is an incredible anomaly here. How is the government or anyone else going to determine which highways are worthy of the 90-kilometre-per-hour speed zone and which highways are not? I can imagine, if we lobbied very hard, the highway from Kenora to Fort Frances would be designated as a 90-kilometre zone. Both the member for Kenora and I would agree with that. We would both enjoy that.

But what happens with the new highway between Atikokan and Dryden? What happens there? Indeed, what happens to that part of Highway 17 that runs from Ignace to Kenora?

Mr. Wildman: Is it a secondary highway?

Mr. Hampton: It is a primary highway. But here is the anomaly. I have heard tourists who are returning to the United States stop in Fort Frances

and say, "Now is that a corduroy road or is it a corduroy road?"

Here we would have people travelling over supposedly secondary highways at 90 kilometres an hour where the member and I would both agree that the Trans-Canada Highway from Ignace to Kenora is, indeed, a corduroy road.

Mr. Miclash: I travel at 90 all the time.

Mr. Hampton: I can only say to the member for Kenora, if he travels that highway at 90 all the time he had better invest in a new set of springs.

Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: That's right. The member for Kenora has an airplane.

Mr. Hampton: Yes, the member for Kenora does have an airplane. I think that should also be noted.

I wonder if the same thing applies to the member for Kenora that applied to the former member for Kenora. While he was a cabinet minister, he used to fly over the highways. Then when he was reduced to the opposition and he started to complain about the conditions of the highways, one of his constituents was quick to retort: "Aha, Leo; they took away your plane, eh?" I wonder if this is the case with the present member for Kenora.

I want to point out these anomalies. The fact of the matter is that well over half of the secondary highways are barely fit for travel at 80 kilometres per hour. I would admit, and I think the member for Kenora and I could agree on the fact, that a couple of highways should perhaps have the 90-kilometre-per-hour designation.

The real problem is that two or three, at least, of these highways are in such desperate shape that what the member for Kenora really should be speaking to is condemning the Minister of Transportation for not allocating enough of his budget to the proper maintenance of highways across northern Ontario. That is what the resolution should speak to. If we had that kind of resolution, I can assure the member for Kenora that he would have unanimous support from all of the members on the opposition side of the House.

Mr. Miclash: Read the last part of the resolution.

Mr. Hampton: The member for Kenora asks that I read the last part of the resolution. He says again, "where highway conditions warrant;" and that is exactly the anomaly we get ourselves into.

The member for Kenora and I know that virtually every municipality across northwestern Ontario has sent to the government various resolutions, whether through municipal councils

or through the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association, asking first of all for an upgrading of the highway, and asking as well for the upgrading of speed limits.

This is what I call half-handed government. They pay attention to the one resolution, hoping that those municipalities will not notice that the second resolution is being ignored. That is the crucial part of this debate; that is the absolutely crucial part of this debate.

If the government were to allocate the sums that are deserved and the sums that are necessary for the upgrading and proper maintenance of these roads, we could have 90-kilometre-per-hour zones throughout northwestern Ontario and indeed throughout a lot of northern Ontario—

Mr. Wildman: Even 100 kilometres.

Mr. Hampton: —and even 100-kilometre zones; which brings me to another anomaly here.

The member for Kenora well knows that as soon as we cross the border into Manitoba the speed limit on many of the highways, not just the Trans-Canada, not just the primary highway, but on many of the highways is actually 100 kilometres per hour over the same sort of topography that we have in the area of Kenora and Rainy River. The highways are maintained such that people can travel over them.

So I want to say to the member for Kenora, I have substantial agreement with this resolution, but the other part of the resolution that is so important is missing.

1140

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order. Would any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate? The member for Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and congratulations on the pronunciation of my riding.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to say a few words on this resolution, and I thank members from all parties for accommodating me, in my being late coming out of the House leaders' meeting, by letting me have the opportunity to speak. I thank my colleague the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson), who did say a couple of words on behalf of our caucus but was kind enough to save me the time to speak a little bit from the perspective of those of us who live in northern Ontario.

I want to say, first of all, that I agree with the intent and the principle of the resolution that is brought forward by the member and indicate that

I will be supporting the resolution. I would like to talk about some of those reasons for which I want to agree with some of the things the member for Rainy River (Mr. Hampton) said, his comments on the quality of our highways in northern Ontario and the deterioration they have gone through over the last three years.

[Laughter]

Mr. Harris: I had to have a little smile there. It may have been four years. Listen, we went through some very depressing times, a severe recession and depression in there, and most northerners understood that things were squeezed a little bit for a couple of years and the government was not able to do all that it wanted to do. But they really do not understand that situation now, particularly in the last three years, with the fourth budget of the Treasurer. With the amount of money that Brian Mulroney's and Michael Wilson's fiscal policy has allowed to roar into Ontario and put into the Treasury of this province, we do not understand why we can no longer get our share up in northern Ontario. So I concur that highway conditions are a problem.

But let me also, before I get into the main text—I may run out of time before I do that, but some of the little snippets of information I am proffering, I hope, will be beneficial as members, I know, are reflecting, deciding and waiting until I have spoken before they decide how they are going to vote on this resolution. Let me also congratulate the former member for Sudbury, Jim Gordon, who took a very strong initiative on this issue, brought forward resolutions and petitions, circulated a resolution to all municipalities in northern Ontario and received overwhelming support for a desire, on those highways that warrant it, to see the speed limit increased.

I think it makes sense. If we are talking tourism, tourists cannot understand, when they come from the United States, when you are coming from the west, where you can go 90 or 100 kilometres an hour—even when you come along Highway 17-11, if it is designated an interprovincial highway it is always at least 90—and yet many of the roads and secondary highways in northern Ontario are of better quality than some of those roads.

So that is kind of an artificial designation. The government says, "This highway connects with the highway east-west, so therefore it will automatically be 90," regardless of condition; and yet many of our secondary roads in better condition are not deemed that way.

I want to say where I take exception with the comments from the member for Rainy River. He indicated that it would be a horrendous problem, I guess, for the Ministry of Transportation to determine which ones are in good enough condition. They do that all the time. When you are looking at secondary highways now that go through municipalities or go through Indian reservations or go through townships, the amount of consultation that goes on in setting the speed limits is very extensive. I found the Ministry of Transportation pretty good, when a road deteriorates, at reducing the speed limit on those roads and on those secondary highways, so I do not think that is a problem at all.

Why I am in favour of this resolution is that we in general are making a statement that the secondary highways in northern Ontario should be good enough that you can go 90 kilometres an hour, and I think if this resolution passes today we are making that kind of statement. Now, there will be exceptions. As I say, when we go through reservations we have to respect that situation and their wishes and the amount of traffic that crosses the highway there; and when we go through townships, when we go through those areas.

We are not saying that it is 90 everywhere. We are saying that, as a general principle, it should be 90 kilometres an hour. Then, as required because of built-up areas, it would be appropriately reduced, the same as it is, quite frankly, now. There may be some places where 80 is appropriate through built-up areas, and if highway conditions deteriorate or do not permit, maybe it should be 70. I will tell members, there are some secondary highways in northern Ontario that should be 70 kilometres an hour, not the automatic 80.

But this says that, in principle, it will be 90 and then be adjusted down as conditions dictate, and I do not see anything wrong with that. That is making a statement that says we should be constructing highways in northern Ontario as well as we do in the south, that is all. I do not think anybody would disagree with that.

When we talk tourism, when we talk trucking routes, when we talk about whether a trucker, a hauler is going to use a southern route or a northern route, these things are considerations: the road quality, the speed at which he can travel. Nobody in northern Ontario is saying: "Would you please let us drive at a dangerous speed? Could we go real, real fast through this area or across this road that is dangerous?" We are not asking that. We are saying that we think the quality of roads and secondary highways that we

have in northern Ontario should be such that 90 kilometres an hour is a safe speed to travel at.

Now, the parliamentary assistant talked about animals, he talked about moose and he talked about these things. There are some areas in northern Ontario which, during times of the year, are areas where there are a lot of deer or moose crossing; we know that. There are warning signs up. One can reduce the speed during those seasons.

Maybe the parliamentary assistant was well trained in the party he came from; I do not know, I am sorry. He has absolutely no understanding of what life is like in northern Ontario, of the great distances there are between communities, of driving on a highway for perhaps an hour and not seeing another vehicle, not one other vehicle. That is why we have a few more animals on the road than there are in southern Ontario. What is more dangerous: eighty-five million trucks and vehicles and everything else you have got to negotiate and dodge while you are going 115 or 120 along Highway 401; or the likelihood that—you are not going to see any cars—that you might see one deer on the side of the road in this 50-mile stretch?

So give us a break. I mean, when the government puts up a speaker of that calibre with that lack of understanding of northern Ontario, it is embarrassing.

I hope those members who are here will understand that, in my view, this member's resolution is simply saying that we should have secondary highways in northern Ontario of such quality that we can travel 90 kilometres per hour. This designation may put more pressure on the government to upgrade some highways, I think perhaps it will. It will be embarrassing to a government if it has to say, "Yes, I know this is supposed to be 90, but it is only 80 because the road is no good." That is very beneficial for us in northern Ontario. It points out those things.

We are conscious of safety. We are conscious of these things in northern Ontario, but those members who do not live there have to understand what it is like in the north. I urge members to support this resolution.

1150

Mr. Brown: I am happy today to stand and indicate to the member for Kenora that I support this resolution, and I commend the member for bringing forth the resolution at this time. He has a riding that is much like mine, a large northern rural riding. I think his is significantly larger, but many of the problems are the same.

He has made a convincing case for this resolution. He pointed out that the history of speed limits in this province, and the speed reduction, is really an issue of conservation which was taken up during the oil crisis of the 1970s. While I fully support conservation, as do all members of this House, I think that if 80 kilometres per hour is a conservation measure, it should be right across the province. It should involve what happens here on Highway 401, where there is a far greater volume of traffic and there is far more potential for energy savings. In fact, we as northerners consider an increase in speed limit a conservation measure, because it will conserve time, and time is one of the critical factors in northern Ontario.

If I might make a small personal observation about speed limits, I would say that, as a northern member, I drive approximately 1,000 kilometres a month on secondary highways. I would make another assumption: that I drive the speed limit—that might be questionable—and I also would make the assumption that perhaps I have an eight-hour working day, which I would also suggest is probably questionable. But doing that, I spend 19 working days per year on secondary highways just driving. Just a 10-kilometre increase in that speed reduces the amount of time that I spend on the highways by two days. I suggest that that in itself is not a big deal, but we have people in my riding who drive far greater distances as a matter of course.

I have a friend who is a registered nurse at the Manitoulin Health Centre. Using the unlikely assumption that she would drive the speed limit and assuming that she would work a 40-hour week, Lou would save the equivalent of one and a half weeks of time per year just by increasing the speed limit by 10 kilometres per hour. Assuming that she would make an average wage for a registered nurse, I suggest that she would save approximately \$1,000 worth of time merely by increasing the speed limit by 10 kilometres.

I say this to point out the fact that not only for my constituents but for the very high-distance drivers, like the courier services, truckers, buses, even home care providers, people who are forced to move throughout our large distances in doing their work, it would boost their efficiency and, therefore, our northern economy.

In the north, when we are talking about distance, we do not talk in kilometres. I do not say my home is 120 miles or 200 kilometres from Elliot Lake; I say it is two and a half hours from Elliot Lake. Obviously, by decreasing the time, we increase our efficiency. It makes our markets

more compact. It essentially shrinks the north. It makes us smaller. It helps us overcome our large distances.

I would be the last to suggest that the province increase the speed limit on all northern secondary highways. Some of them just would not be able to have increased speed limits. I am, however, sure that the Ministry of Transportation could have guidelines that would indicate which ones are safe. We have guidelines in the Ministry of Transportation for everything, and I am sure the ministry could develop guidelines for what is safe and what is not.

I also point out to members that the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Northern Development have made a very significant program to improve northern roads. Since this government took power in 1985, spending on northern highways has increased by over 50 per cent. I think that is a significant number, especially in terms of the fact that there is also the question of the industry's capacity to deal with this increased and unprecedented activity on northern roads.

I believe, however, that the majority of northern secondary highways will in fact accommodate increased speed limits. Northern Ontario is a very large region. It contains over 80 per cent of Ontario's land area but under 10 per cent of its population. Of that population in the north, 75 per cent live in one of the five major centres. That leaves 2.5 per cent of all Ontarians spread out across this vast area.

In order for us to improve our quality of life, in order for us to compete, in order for us to attract tourists, businesses and industry, we must improve both transportation and communication. We must make realistic assumptions about these old problems and we must use new technologies, such as computers, fax machines, all the communications things we have, to facilitate our competitiveness in the global village. I do not believe an increase in the speed limits on secondary highways is therefore unreasonable. I believe it would be an inexpensive way of improving our quality of life.

I would also make the point that has been made on the other side of the House. There are members who have difficulty understanding how driving on Highway 401, which to northerners looks like a parking lot moving at 120 kilometres an hour, bumper to bumper, is more safe than driving on a northern road on which you will often not see another vehicle except for the odd one with flashing lights on it.

I would therefore suggest that we support this resolution in the interests of improving the northern economy, improving our quality of life and restoring a sense of sanity to Ontario's speed limits.

Mr. Miclash: First of all, I would like to thank the member for Algoma-Manitoulin and the member for Nipissing for their support. They, too, realize the vast distances and the travel that we in northern Ontario are faced with.

As I mentioned earlier, I do have a great amount of support other than what the member for Rainy River has suggested. There are a lot of people throughout the north who have given me that support, noting the fact of the great distances throughout.

I must bring to the attention of the member that I was talking about highways where the conditions warrant. I think that is a very important part of the resolution. As the member for Algoma-Manitoulin has stated, the Ministry of Transportation should be able to judge these areas where safe travel at this speed would be accommodated.

As we have also mentioned, we are putting money into the roads in northern Ontario, with the increase in the budget of 50 per cent since 1985, and we are looking at improvements. The member from the opposition mentioned the building of highways. We are not talking about money in the budget for the building of highways; we are talking about money in the budget for the improvement of highways. There are two very significant differences there. I would say that the money we are looking at going into northern Ontario is for improving those highways so that we can get more of them up to that standard where 90 kilometres per hour would not be an outrageous speed limit.

I would also like to bring up the fact of the improved quality that we see in our vehicles today. I mentioned earlier about gravel roads, about the speed limits on these gravel roads in years past being 60 miles per hour. I feel that with the quality of the roads we have today and the quality of vehicles we have today, we are not asking for anything outrageous here.

The member for Rainy River mentioned the building of roads in Manitoba, the speed limit in Manitoba being 90 or 100 kilometres per hour. I must remind him that the roads he is talking about are much easier to build across the prairie regions of that province than through the rock cuts of Kenora.

I also would like to mention a former member, Jim Gordon, as the member for Nipissing earlier mentioned. From the north, he too realized the problems that we in the north face with the extended distance and the extended travel times. As I was doing my research, his name did appear. So it is not something that we in the north have just begun to take a look at but something that has gone on for a long time, and I do ask the support of all members in the House for this resolution.

1205

Mr. Speaker: We will now deal with the two items before the House.

EAST/CENTRAL ONTARIO RECREATIONAL TRAILS COMMISSION ACT

The House divided on Mr. Pollock's motion for second reading of Bill 67, An Act to establish the East/Central Ontario Recreational Trails Commission, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Ballinger, Bryden, Callahan, Charlton, Cooke, D. R., Cooke, D. S., Cunningham, Daigeler, Elliot, Eves, Farnan, Fawcett, Hampton, Harris, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Laughren, Mahoney, Martel, McCague, McLean, Philip, Pollock, Runciman, South, Sterling, Sullivan, Villeneuve, Wildman.

Nays

Adams, Black, Brown, Carrothers, Epp, Ferraro, Johnston, R. F., Kanter, Lipsett, Lupusella, Mancini, Matrundola, McGuigan, McGuinty, Miclash, Miller, Neumann, Nicholas, Owen, Pelissero, Reycraft, Roberts, Smith, D. W., Velshi, Wilson.

Ayes 30; nays 25.

Bill ordered for the standing committee on resources development.

SPEED LIMITS IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Miclash has moved resolution 26.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:12 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

GALT BRANCH 121, ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Mr. Farnan: It gives me great pleasure to read into the record of the Ontario provincial Legislature a tribute to Galt Branch 121, Royal Canadian Legion, on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

The Legion represents the spirit of commitment to one's fellow man. In times of great crisis, this was reflected in the unselfish acts of young men and women who put their lives on the line to preserve a way of life. That spirit of generosity lives on.

Since 1928, Galt Branch 121 has been faithful to veterans and their families, to the traditions of the Legion through their service bureau, Remembrance Day services and the familiar poppy campaign. Branch 121 has also opened its heart to embrace the entire Cambridge community. It has promoted education by public speaking activities and by bursary and scholarship programs. Charities, minor sports, scout and cadet groups, our community hospital and medical research have all benefited from funds donated by Branch 121.

Galt, and now Cambridge, is a richer community because of the presence of Branch 121 in our midst, and I am confident that in the years ahead it will continue to remain a beacon of sacrifice and a model of generosity for our community. On behalf of all the citizens of Cambridge, I say thank you, Branch 121, and may God ever bless your work.

DRUG BENEFITS

Mr. Villeneuve: Members will know that cystic fibrosis is a disease for which there is no cure. Today in all of Canada perhaps some 500 young people with cystic fibrosis have passed their 18th birthday and, of those, only some 200 are able to work. These courageous young adults will require expensive drugs and, in most cases, financial support.

Members should be shocked to learn that Ontario will not assist adult cystic fibrosis sufferers who attempt to work full-time hours and who want to be productive members of our society.

Luke Labelle is one such courageous 20-year-old who resides in the riding of Nepean. His

mother is a constituent in my riding. Luke is working at two jobs but cannot afford the monthly drug bills of over \$1,000 required to keep him alive. The Ministry of Community and Social Services is not able to help and will not help as long as he continues to work.

To date, he has been able to stay alive because the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario has not collected the money he owes them for drugs. This hospital has a \$9-million deficit. If this government's hospital deficit policy is enforced, Luke's drug supply will be cut off.

The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) knows of this case, and I urge him, as well as the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), to resolve this and similar cases. We cannot allow these circumstances and conditions to go on for these sufferers of cystic fibrosis.

HANOVER INDUSTRIAL FAIR

Mr. Daigeler: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology and the over 70 Ontario business leaders who helped to improve our export opportunities by taking part in the recent Hanover Industrial Fair.

At a time when the federal and provincial Tories would have us believe that our economic future should be tied even more closely with the United States, it is important to underline and explore aggressively the trading opportunities in the other parts of the world.

As the largest industrial fair in the western world, the Hanover event is not only a showcase for the latest developments in industrial technology but also a unique opportunity for establishing new business contacts and for creating profitable deals with suppliers and purchasers, especially in western Europe.

I am proud to know that this government, through its trade representatives in Frankfurt, is vigorously supporting these contacts and helping Ontario businesses to become even more export-oriented. Competing in a global market is the message of the Premier's Council on Ontario's economic future. Participating in the Hanover fair was one way to make this message real, and I am proud to have been associated with it.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I rise in recognition of Canada Health Day and remind members that a number of the promises of this Liberal govern-

ment have not been fulfilled around health policy.

Members will remember, of course, a number of years ago when the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), who is here today, promised that we would be seeing reductions in Ontario health insurance plan premiums and the eventual waiving out of OHIP premiums in a four-year period. The generosity of the taxpayers has, of course, known no bounds, as the Treasurer is saying, but he did make that promise and that commitment in 1984 and 1985. It has since been retracted.

But under OHIP, some members will not know, a very strange situation is occurring, and that concerns diabetics, usually people who have to inject themselves with insulin on a daily basis. If you are on a fixed income, you can receive coverage through OHIP for your payments for your insulin itself, but there is no payment for the syringes that you have to use.

I have been receiving letters in the last little while from members of my constituency who are having to spend \$22 a month on syringes which they cannot afford out of their basic pensions, and this government, and this Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) who is sitting here today, have refused to move on this matter now for numbers of months. We do hope that, besides the assistive devices changes which we are waiting for with bated breath, the Ministry of Health will move in this one small matter and make life a little easier for diabetics who are on fixed incomes in Ontario.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I rise today also to comment on Canada Health Day. This is an annual event designed to promote awareness of health issues by the general public and the health sector. Hospitals across the province celebrate this day by holding special events for the public in which they share information and invite the public to participate in some of the special programs which they offer.

However, this year Ontario hospitals do not have too much to celebrate. Many of the preventive programs they offer, such as nutritional assessments, hearing tests, proper back care instruction and even diabetes education centres, are doomed to extinction in light of the confrontational, inflexible position that this government has taken with respect to hospital funding.

The public does not have much to celebrate, either. If you need heart surgery, be prepared to

wait up to a year, if you survive that long. If you need an artificial joint, be prepared to wait up to two years. And, to quote a health professional I talked to, if he had cancer he would leave Ontario to get treatment. For those who finally do manage to get a bed in a hospital, be prepared to enjoy your stay in the hospital corridor.

Our so-called world-class health care system is in serious trouble. We need effective, responsible leadership from the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), the Ministry of Health and the government of Ontario, and we need it now.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and concerns the failing health of Ontario's Workers' Compensation Board system.

The minister is no doubt aware that the high cost associated with the system, coupled with exorbitant assessment rate increases, is taking its toll, and the Workers' Compensation Board is in danger of expiring. I have serious concerns that the WCB assessment rates, which increase at an alarming rate each year, will drive industries in northern Ontario, farmers trying to maintain their farms and small business operators throughout Ontario out of business.

That is why I have urged the minister on several occasions to use the Huronia Regional Centre in Orillia as a site for a new WCB rehabilitation centre or a regional medical centre to research work-related injuries and rehabilitation problems as well as to provide therapy designed to reintroduce injured workers back into the workplace gradually. I believe this would go a long way towards reducing the high cost of assessment rates and the other costs associated with injured workers in Ontario.

The ministry should be aware that the owner of a lumber company in my riding indicated to me that the WCB assessment has increased 14.89 per cent in 1985-86, increased a further 13.8 per cent in 1986-87 and rose another 9.87 per cent in 1987-88. The assessment rate for carpet installers and retail workers increased by a similar percentage at this very same mill.

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CARABRAM

Mr. Callahan: In the brief time that is left to me I would like to extend an invitation to all of the members of the Legislature, as well as those people who may be watching us on television, to attend a very excellent multicultural event that occurs in Brampton each year. This year it will

take place on July 8, 9 and 10. We have 16 pavilions, and if members come along they will have an opportunity to savour the sights, sounds and the enjoyment of visiting 16 different communities without even leaving the lovely and beautiful city of Brampton.

Mr. Brandt: Will you be there?

Mr. Callahan: Of course.

Mr. Brandt: I am not going, then.

Mr. Callahan: Oh, all right. I will convey your apologies.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am pleased to announce today that Goodyear Canada will be constructing a \$320-million radial passenger tire facility in eastern Ontario this year. This plant, which will be located near Napanee, will represent the state of the art in modern radial tire production and is part of this government's continued efforts to promote province-wide industrial growth.

This initiative is the result of lengthy negotiations between our government and Goodyear and this investment is an important first step in making the Ontario tire industry internationally competitive.

This state-of-the-art eastern Ontario facility will be built in two stages, the first to begin later this year at a cost of \$160 million, with production to start in the first quarter of 1990, and the second due for completion in 1994. When it reaches full production following completion of the second phase, the plant will employ 800 workers and produce 20,000 tires daily, using the highest level of technology available.

In addition to providing a direct boost to the eastern Ontario economy in the way of jobs, the plant will provide a number of spinoff benefits as well, including the introduction of advanced radial tire technology, which could result in the attraction of other automotive-related manufacturers to eastern Ontario.

Ontario is providing a \$32-million loan to assist the establishment of this facility. The loan, which is repayable over 10 years, reflects our confidence in the ability of Goodyear to deliver a top-quality product. The loan will be interest-free, provided certain performance targets are met, including the completion of the project's two phases, totalling a minimum of \$320 million in capital investment and the creation of 800 jobs in eastern Ontario.

The need for a new direction and new opportunities for Ontario's tire industry cannot be overstated. Faced with the reality of the loss of two out-of-date tire plants, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology staff and I have met personally with representatives of the tire industry in Ontario, the United States, Japan and Europe on a regular basis, with the aim of restructuring the industry to meet the needs of a modern and increasingly competitive market. We have worked closely with the industry to identify new opportunities, and the new Good-year tire plant is an example of both the process we went through and the progress we have made.

In conclusion, this sound and progressive investment reflects both the renewed strength of Ontario's tire industry in meeting the challenge of the world marketplace and the faith that the government of Ontario has in this industry's potential as a generator of increased economic development in eastern Ontario.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REORGANIZATION

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I wish to draw to the attention of the members that, throughout our country, today is recognized as Canada Health Day. Here in Ontario this event is being used as an opportunity by many groups working in health care to show how effectively they can work together to promote health in their communities.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Ontario Hospital Association, the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Local Official Health Agencies. This year they have joined forces with members of the public and the major providers of care to host a number of community events all across the province.

Yesterday I had the opportunity to meet with ministry staff to launch the reorganization of the Ministry of Health. Today I am pleased to release details of the restructuring, which has been under development for the past six months. This new structure will improve the delivery of health care and promote innovative community-based services.

As part of our new ministry organization, I have created a new focus for mental health services in the province. A program co-ordinator for mental health has been appointed. The co-ordinator's role is to ensure that all services related to mental health are brought together and co-ordinated at the management level. The co-ordinator will also serve as a single point of

entry for interest and advocacy groups in mental health.

Our intention is to establish a more cohesive framework for our rapidly expanding network of mental health services. We intend to better integrate services provided in psychiatric, general and specialty hospitals and we intend to promote relationships among the more than 400 community programs sponsored by the ministry. Our objective is to help everyone requiring mental health treatment and care to remain in or move back into the community.

One of our more important partners in the provision of mental health services is the Canadian Mental Health Association and its local branches. With us today in the members' gallery are Howard Richardson, executive director of the Ontario division of the CMHA, and with him are Oscar Johvicas, Brian Davidson, Rena Scheffer and Andrew Wright. I want to thank each of these people for their support in helping us to provide effective mental health care.

To promote the further development of community mental health programs in Ontario, I am announcing today that the budgets of the 23 branches of the Canadian Mental Health Association will be increased by \$720,000 annually. These funds will be used by the Canadian Mental Health Association branches for administrative costs such as recruitment of personnel, rental of community facilities and program supervision.

In addition, we will provide a funding increase of \$100,000 annually to the Ontario division of CMHA. These funds will be used for grants for special projects, workshops, advertising and the training of branch staff, volunteers and board members.

The ministry has also approved a special grant of \$480,000 for the Ontario Mental Health Foundation, to be used for research into the prevention and treatment of mental illness. The projects will be conducted by researchers at universities across the province. Among them will be studies relating to adolescent mental health, sexual abuse, dyslexia and sleeping disorders as well as the effects of maternal stress.

I am also announcing that the Ministry of Health will spend more than \$1 million over the next two years on 29 community projects promoting good health for targeted population groups. This is the first round of approved programs in our new health promotion grants program.

The sponsoring groups will use a variety of techniques, from peer counselling to martial arts training, native culture and English-as-a-second-

language classes to get people involved. The 29 projects include a Toronto program to improve nutrition among low-income groups, a Hamilton program to encourage healthy lifestyles among immigrants and refugees and an Ottawa program to promote dental health among seniors.

Local health units and district health councils are deeply involved in developing many of these projects. The proposals were well thought out and demonstrated a good knowledge of health promotion skills. I want to thank everyone involved in helping us begin this new program on such a successful footing. I will inform the House when the next round of health promotion grants is received.

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POLICE WEEK

Hon. Mrs. Smith: I am sure the honourable members are aware that next week is Police Week in Canada, and I would ask them to join me during that period in taking the time to express Ontario's appreciation to the men and women who serve us so ably.

Since my appointment as Solicitor General, I have become all too familiar with the challenges faced by today's police officers. Today's police officers are very special people. They must be, because they work on the cutting edge of a rapidly changing society.

True, technological changes like the computer, for example, have helped police to process all sorts of information rapidly and efficiently. But as surely as the invention of the automobile was followed by car theft, society's widespread use of computers has been followed by computer crime and the need for new investigative skills.

The social mandate of our police force has changed also and our police officers have had to acquire new skills to match this. They have been devoting extra care and energy to assisting victims of crime. They have been tackling the public's fear of crime by strengthening their ties with the communities they serve.

The changing nature of Ontario's population has created a determination to recruit more women and members of minorities.

Social problems like impaired driving have generated enforcement solutions like the Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere program and new emphasis on public education programs.

Time and time again our police forces are challenged with new problems and time and time again they meet those challenges successfully.

I urge honourable members to show their appreciation by giving Police Week their whole-hearted support. Our police have earned it.

RESPONSES

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond to the announcement by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) and my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) will be responding to the announcement by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan).

GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to say to the minister that he will know how profoundly disappointed we are that his statement says nothing about guarantees for the workers in the Etobicoke plant. He had an opportunity to do so in his statement. It is clear that by his omitting it from his statement, those guarantees are not there and he will know that is profoundly disappointing to those workers who have given the best years of their lives to the company in Etobicoke.

It is profoundly disappointing to my colleague the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip), who has been asking questions on this matter for some time, and I think it sets a very bad precedent for the relationship between the government and industry when it comes to job protection and just who is speaking up on behalf of the working families in this province.

With respect to the \$32-million interest-free loan, I want to say this: that is a \$3-million-a-year gift from the government of Ontario to Goodyear Canada. It was said by a wise philosopher that to govern is to choose, and among all the people in this province who deserve money, among all those causes that are out there that are in desperate need, out of all those hospitals that are looking for additional funds, out of those patients who are on waiting lists for months, and indeed years, this government has chosen to ignore them.

To give to whom? To the poor? To the needy? To the struggling? No, to a company that took \$30 million out of Canada just this last year on a special levy, a company that internationally has made hundreds of millions of dollars a year in profits and that last year made over \$20 million.

We are all delighted to see the free enterprise system work, but when it is neither enterprising nor genuinely free, surely we are entitled to ask why the government is choosing to give money to Goodyear Canada when it does not have money for hospitals, it does not have money for people who are sick and it does not have money for our education system.

The government has chosen to give money to them; let the judgement of the people be on its back.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
REORGANIZATION

Mr. Reville: Things are getting stranger and stranger in the Ministry of Health. We have an announcement today that there is a reorganization of the Ministry of Health, the details of the restructuring are released today and then the minister goes on to talk for several pages about \$1-million worth of funding she has provided for mental health.

Then she talks about a little drop in the bucket for community health, which works out to about \$17,000 annually for 29 community groups. She says nothing about which of the assistant deputy ministers has been given a golden handshake. She says nothing about improvements in the development of community health centres or health service organizations.

She is going to award a grant to an Ottawa program to promote dental health among seniors. Obviously that would be a useful program, but she does not say anything about the dental program for seniors that the city of Toronto has been funding now for many years, hoping that the Ministry of Health would finally get involved in the dental health of seniors.

This afternoon, of course, we are going to have a debate about health at last. I think it would be particularly useful if the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) would sit in her chair during the debate so that in fact she will know how badly the Ministry of Health needs restructuring and reorganizing and that then she will share with members of the House just how such a reorganization and such a restructuring would in fact help to meet the health objectives we want to have for the citizens of our province.

The minister is allocating about \$500,000 to research into prevention and treatment of mental illness. That is a useful grant. Perhaps she would like to authorize a grant for research into why and what kind of doughnuts the ex-psychiatric patients of Ontario like best, because in fact we know it is the doughnut stores of this province that provide most of the aftercare for ex-psychiatric patients, in spite of the good work done by my friends from the Canadian Mental Health Association and allied agencies.

The minister has not acknowledged that she is talking about a four per cent item of her budget in community health and a four per cent item for mental health. It is shocking.

GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

Mr. Brandt: I would like to respond to the announcement, or rather the reannouncement, of

the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. Kwinter) with respect to the development of the plant in eastern Ontario.

There is no question that we are delighted at this announcement, which will help the economic growth and development in eastern Ontario. We are also delighted, knowing the track record of this government, that during the one and a half or two months since this announcement was originally made it has not done anything to cause the plant to go elsewhere during the ensuing 60 days. So it was a little bit reassuring to hear that the plant is in fact going to be going to eastern Ontario.

Let me say to the minister that I think the argument that some \$32 million has been loaned to this company to cause this plant to be built, either in that location or elsewhere in Ontario, is not something we would necessarily oppose on this side of the House, at least within our party, but I think there should be some further explanation with respect to the need for that particular loan. It looks to be about 10 per cent of the total capital investment of some \$320 million.

The minister very carefully has avoided mentioning any other competition that was perhaps a factor in granting the loan, any other jurisdictions where this plant may have considered locating and the need for this particular amount of money. I recognize that the minister does not have a program which necessarily invests a specific amount of money in a specific plant, so there has to be some justification for this amount on this particular occasion.

Let me take this happy occasion to congratulate the minister and the government. I think it is an excellent project for eastern Ontario. I think in particular, now that we are at the advent of a trade agreement with the United States, that the spinoff benefits the minister wants to see happen as a result of the improved access to the American market—which of course is argued against in this report he has just shared with us today—is something that will happen, hopefully, in eastern Ontario as a result of that trade agreement.

I wish the minister well in this investment. I trust the 800 jobs will bring a form of secure and beneficial employment to the people in eastern Ontario.

1400

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REORGANIZATION

Mr. Eves: I would like to respond briefly to the statement of the Minister of Health (Mrs.

Caplan) in the Legislature this afternoon. We welcome the contents of her statement as made in the Legislature. There are indeed some pieces of good news there. We would point out to the minister, however, that there is still no community mental health act in existence in Ontario despite the efforts of my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville).

We are happy to note the minister has chosen not to accept Dr. Barkin's approach, which he was promoting around the province some three or four months ago, that we should wipe out the mental health operations branch of the Ministry of Health altogether, although on this side of the House we are still not too sure about that because we were informed a few moments ago by the minister herself that the reorganization plan that was supposed to be handed out to every member has not yet reached the members on this side of the House at least.

POLICE WEEK

Mr. Harris: I want to comment briefly on the statement made by the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith). I too, and on behalf of our party, want to congratulate the police as we enter Police Week next week. In so doing, though, I want to point out the remarkable job they do, and they do do a remarkable job.

The remarkable job they do is even more remarkable when we look at the obstacles that have been put forward, when we look at the obstacles that are in their road. I am talking about obstacles of the justice system. I am talking about the obstacles that are in their road with the lack of crown attorneys and the lack of incentive for good crown attorneys to practise in this province. I am talking about some of the ridiculous sentences that are handed out by the courts.

I am not blaming the courts here. I am blaming the government, the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) for not setting a direction, for not unequivocally saying, "These types of light sentences are unacceptable to us as politicians and we are reflecting the wishes of the people of this province."

The police are doing a remarkable job under very, very difficult circumstances and under a regime that does not appear to believe in law and order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions again today for the Minister of Health. I wonder if the minister can tell us why, when she made her

statement yesterday with respect to the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, she would not have had the courtesy to at least have given the House the information which her ministry staff had, which I have today, which is a rather thorough refutation by the board of the hospital of the allegations contained in the minister's statement.

The minister would have had that information available to her when she made her statement. She will know, for example, that the board is very much of the view that a turnaround to a position where revenue at least covers expenses can be achieved only through a drastic reduction of services to inpatients and outpatients. She will be aware that the board is not about to recommend that action and that is precisely why it was so troubled by the announcement the minister made yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: Can the minister tell us why, in all fairness to this particular hospital, instead of having an inquiry which would look at it from the hospital's point of view as well as from the point of view of the minister's bureaucrats, she chose the bureaucrats over those who are delivering care to patients directly in Cambridge?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We had an interesting and expert outside review done of the hospital as part of the review of 22 hospitals. It is interesting to see that the leader of the New Democratic Party, the leader of the official opposition in this House, is championing the cause of those who deliberately run up deficits and those who would even consider patient user charges.

It is quite a turn of events when the leader of the NDP supports user fees. We on this side of the House believe, on the other hand, in a well planned, well managed, universally accessible health care system that does not erect financial barriers.

Mr. Reville: That is a new cue card. That is called the aggressive cue card.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister's new cue card is a cue card that tells her to make allegations with respect to my position which the minister knows full well are totally inaccurate.

I can say to the minister that it is possible—maybe she does not understand it and maybe the Liberal Party does not understand it—to be worried and troubled about cutbacks without for a moment believing in a user fee of any kind. The minister knows that perfectly well.

By way of supplementary, I would like to ask the minister, again, a simple question. I will repeat the question with the observation that

people make absolutely baseless allegations in response to a question when they have no answer to the question.

I asked the minister a very simple question and I will ask it of her again. Why did she not, in the statement she had to make yesterday, refer in any way, shape or form to the fact that the hospital itself is profoundly troubled by the problem of accessibility and throughout its response to her report and the so-called report of her experts—which, I might add, called for the use of sale and leaseback arrangements—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: It is quite clear from the statements made by the Leader of the Opposition that he believes in an open-ended, unplanned, unmanaged health care system. He believes that \$12.7 billion—one third of the total provincial budget—is not enough for the Ontario health care system and he says this at a time when he knows that we have one of the best and one of the best-funded systems in the world.

Mr. Farnan: As I listened to the minister today, I felt rather sick. I listened to the minister and the words that the minister used today in her statement were “working together” and “a cohesive framework.” This is what she talked about.

Compare that with the arbitrary and heavy-handed approach of this ministry in initiating the inquiry yesterday. I cannot help but think that this minister is a hypocrite.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat. I heard the honourable member accuse another member of being a hypocrite. Will you withdraw that word?

Mr. Farnan: I cannot withdraw that word, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would, in all fairness, ask the member: will you withdraw that word? Will you?

Mr. Farnan: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Yes or no?

Mr. Farnan: —in the interests of asking—

Mr. Speaker: Yes or no?

Mr. Farnan: Look, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Yes or no?

Mr. Farnan: —the minister is a hypocrite.

Mr. Speaker: I have no choice but to ask the member to remove himself from the chamber for the balance of the sitting day.

Mr. Farnan left the chamber.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister another question. The minister yesterday, in answer to certain questions that I asked about Mr. LeBel, told him the answer to his problems was to read the Wall Street Journal. I say to the minister, if she is reading the Wall Street Journal today, she will be reading horoscopes next week.

1410

I would simply like to tell the minister now about the case of Betty Hodge. Betty Hodge is in her 70s and lives in Oakville. She has an artificial joint in her left knee and needs part of it replaced. She was scheduled to have surgery at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital in February 1989. She received the same letter as Mr. LeBel and she is now rescheduled for April 9, 1990. Other patients have received letters rescheduling up to September 1990.

I would like to ask the minister, is she telling all the patients who have received the same letter from the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital that they should abandon their plans to have operations there and start shopping aimlessly all around the province, trying to find their way onto a waiting list?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: My advice to the Leader of the Opposition and to anyone in this province in need of care is that we have a number of hospitals that provide services right across this province. If they find themselves in that situation, they should request a second opinion.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister is perhaps unaware that some of the operations that are performed at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital are not widely available across the province. If I could come back to the example of Mr. LeBel, whose case I raised yesterday in the House, she should perhaps know that because Mr. LeBel is comparatively young, the hope is that he will have one operation which will last him for his lifetime. Dr. Cameron uses a technique called porous in-growth technique, which is not widely used across the province. In fact, he uses a special hip replacement which again is not widely used across the province.

I would like to ask the minister, was she aware of that and is she aware of it when she makes such casual recommendations to patients that they should simply shop around all across the province, hoping to get some kind of care?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think the Leader of the Opposition raises a point which is important for everyone to understand. There are a number of physicians in this province who offer services

right across this province, in every centre, in numerous procedures. The recognition that one physician has 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can schedule only what he personally is able to perform is very important in this matter. However, there are many physicians who provide this service. If an individual does not wish to wait for a specific surgeon to perform the procedure, he can ask to be referred to another surgeon performing the procedure. That is very reasonable in a system of regionalized care.

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if I could come back and just ask the minister what she is saying to those patients, many of whom are elderly, many of whom have already had one operation with a particular doctor. In the case of Ms. Hodge, the example I raised earlier today, she has had three operations on her knee. She has a relationship with Dr. Cameron. Does the minister not feel that her advice is, at the very least, insensitive to those literally hundreds of patients who are now being asked to wait for as long as until September 1990 for an operation which they have been counting on?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: Does she not realize that it simply is not that easy for people to shop around?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have said on numerous occasions that our system is designed for those in need of urgent care to receive priority. That system is called triage. We also rely on the medical judgements of physicians to determine in what order patients will receive care. I would not presume to interfere in a patient-and-doctor relationship and I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition do the same. If a patient is not satisfied with the place he has in the doctor's estimation as to when his surgery is required, he can, and in my opinion should, seek a second opinion.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to raise a point of order under standing order 28(d). The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) gave a statement yesterday on Cambridge Memorial Hospital in which she referred to extensive written reviews that had been done of that hospital, and there was no compendium of information filed with the House.

Again today the minister refers in her statement to a reorganization of her ministry and that the details will be filed. We have not received them in the mail, as the minister said we would.

We have just checked. They have not been tabled here.

How do we hold the Minister of Health accountable when she can make statements in this place and deliberately not give the information to the members of the Legislature?

Mr. Speaker: You have drawn that to the attention of the minister.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that an information kit should be placed in the mailbox of every member before the end of question period.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The rule clearly says, "After any policy statement the minister shall table a compendium."

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It doesn't say "may." It says "shall."

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Does she have it on her desk? She doesn't. If you have it on your desk, table it.

Mr. Wildman: The rule doesn't say "mail-boxes."

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: It's your review that you paid for. You made a policy analysis as a result of your review. Selective disclosure, that's what it is. Selective to meet your own purposes.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Minister of Health. It relates to the issue of the Cambridge review.

Since yesterday the minister indicated in this House that an investigator was going to be sent into the Cambridge Memorial Hospital as a result of that particular facility initiating new programs without ministry approval, I would like to ask her why that is, in that she wrote in February 1988 discouraging hospitals from sending in requests for 1988-89 reviews for new programs. In fact, she had not even approved the programs for 1987-88. She was a full year behind in reviewing any requests for new programs.

As a result of that information, does it not appear that the hospital itself is not causing the problem but that the ministry's delay in the approval process for these programs is, in fact, the problem?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I came across a quote that I found particularly interesting. This dates back to October 27, 1980, and I am sure the leader of the third party will find this as interesting as I do. I quote: "If any hospital introduces a program or

adds staff without obtaining approval by going through proper channels, thereby incurring a deficit beyond its global allocation, that hospital is operating outside the rules."

Do the members know who said that? Dennis Timbrell.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: Some of the members of the government may applaud that response, which again has absolutely nothing to do with the question I have raised, but I have to tell them that I agree with what the minister has said and I agree with what Mr. Timbrell said back in 1980. Certainly the hospitals should go by the rules, and certainly the minister's review process should be brought up to date so that when the hospitals, in fact, submit a request for an expanded program, she at least will give them a response and not hold them up, as she is doing.

My question to the minister is that yesterday she indicated that an investigator would find out why the deficit budget was approved and the report would tell us why. Well, let me quote page 7 of the report which she refuses to release in this House, which from 1981-82 to the 1987-88 periods would indicate: "Both revenues and expenses have increased dramatically and costs have grown more rapidly than expenses. For instance, diagnostic and therapeutic service expenses have increased by 83 per cent, drugs and surgical supplies by over 100 per cent."

Would that not indicate to the minister that the real problem here is with funding, not with some kind of witchhunt that she obviously is on with respect to the Cambridge facility?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The further part of the quote in 1981 was: "No more overspending. Increased hospital autonomy must be balanced by increased accountability. Let's call deficits for what they are: overspending."

Mr. Brandt: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: I am on a point of order, if you don't mind.

Mr. Speaker: Point of order.

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Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, yesterday you allowed the minister to make a statement that had absolutely nothing to do with the question that I had raised. Twice today the minister is getting up on her feet and answering a question that I have not, in fact, raised. Now she can quote from whatever she wants, but I ask you, Mr. Speaker,

to direct the minister to answer the questions we are raising.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate the assistance the member for Sarnia is giving. However, it is not up to the Speaker to put words in the mouth of the questioner or the responder.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: This is very relevant. Part of the difficulty I am having is that when I tell the hospitals what we expect from them, as the previous minister did one year ago, they do not believe that—

Mr. Brandt: Statement period, right Elinor? You can make any statement you want. I'll keep asking any questions I want. You keep making your statements.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In 1982, a former Minister of Health said—I know the members will find this very interesting—"We will not accept or pay for deficits incurred in this or future years." Do you know who said that, Mr. Speaker?

Some hon. members: Who?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Mr. Grossman.

The difference is—I want to acknowledge this, because it is exactly relevant to the leader of the third party's question—that we do what—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is impossible to hear anything.

Mr. Brandt: I cannot wait to hear the next quote. I am sure it will be just as enlightening as the last two.

In her statement the minister said, "Investigators will investigate any other matters relevant to the quality of administration and management of the hospital." I believe I am quoting her accurately.

The report she refused to release to either of the opposition parties yesterday states: "The area of quality of management is not an issue. The board is well informed and all their decisions are based on actual, accurate and timely information. The administration is a highly capable, hardworking and dedicated group."

No wonder the minister did not want to release the review yesterday, for the review very clearly states that the problem is not—I repeat, not—with the Cambridge Memorial Hospital but with the minister and with the Ministry of Health. Will the minister not agree to release that report now to all members of the House, and will she not admit that she is on nothing more than a witchhunt as it relates to the Cambridge hospital?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Over the past five years, Cambridge Memorial's budget has increased by 41 per cent: in 1983-84, 10.1 per cent; 1984-85, six per cent; 1985-86, six per cent; 1986-87, 5.8 per cent; and 1987-88, 7.5 per cent.

The review of that hospital is available from the hospital. Within the ministry it is a working document. Any suggestion that that hospital has not been fairly treated in the past five years is clearly, clearly inappropriate.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out that I raised the matter a few minutes ago about the compendium of information. The members should know that the press gallery has been given the information package, not the members.

Mr. Speaker: That is a point of information.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Eves: I, too, have a question of the Minister of Health. We have spoken to the administrator of Cambridge Memorial Hospital. He said the amended plan she accuses the hospital of being about to implement—

Interjection.

Mr. Eves: Well, maybe the minister should try talking to him if she has the time.

He said that the amended plan she accuses the hospital of being about to implement was merely a part of a range of options that the executive committee of the board had developed to present to the board for discussion; which meeting was taking place tonight, by the way. At no time was it a confirmed plan of action of the hospital. They had merely asked her ministry for input. Instead of the consultative, co-operative approach the minister enunciated yesterday in the House, she reacted by sending in an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act. I might note that this was not recommended under her review by Woods Gordon.

Mr. Speaker: And the question would be?

Mr. Eves: Is this the type of treatment that the Cambridge hospital and other hospitals in the province can expect under the minister's co-operative, consultative approach?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The terms of reference for the investigator that I announced yesterday are all from the review which the member has in his possession. It is interesting to note as well that, as well as a 41 per cent increase over the past five years, what this included was adjustments for growth in every single year. When the deficit

was paid off, the hospital's base budget was adjusted to prevent a deficit the next year.

What we are talking about is a clearly planned and managed system of health care, one that I believe we all wish to see in this province and one that, as Minister of Health, I intend to implement.

Mr. Eves: One of the areas the minister said would be looked into was the computerization that the hospital has implemented. Quite frankly, we find that rather puzzling in light of the statements on the advantages of hospital computerization which both the minister and her deputy have made in the past.

I wish to quote directly from a speech which Dr. Barkin made at a conference on computerization in health care on February 1, 1988: "The ministry's view of its role in planning for, implementing and evaluating information technology is that of a facilitator and partner with Ontario hospitals rather than a decision-maker or intervener."

I hardly think the minister has acted either as a facilitator or a partner in this case. She most certainly has acted as an intervener. The deficit review found that Cambridge's information system was, and I quote, "a valuable tool in managing the hospital and in handling the increased volume."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Eves: Why is the minister now penalizing Cambridge Memorial Hospital for following her advice, her deputy minister's advice and her ministry's guidelines for trying to improve its efficiency?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think we all acknowledge, or should acknowledge, that the hospital system is well funded. In the past, since 1984-85, as I have mentioned, we have increased funding to base budgets by some 40 per cent across the board. It is essential that the ministry and individual hospitals manage the available resources as efficiently as possible.

In this particular situation I want to point out the fact that hospitals cannot work in isolation. We must have a co-ordinated level of services, both at the community and at the provincial level. What we are talking about is a well-planned, well-managed health care system.

Mr. Eves: The minister keeps on talking about "well-planned, well-managed." To quote from the review: "In terms of productivity and unit cost, Cambridge Memorial Hospital has performed better than most of its peers." So much

for well-managed, well-planned productivity by hospitals.

Let me quote again from the hospital board's position in the Woods Gordon deficit review:

"By legislation and regulation, the Ministry of Health directive, responsibility for delivering insured hospital services in Cambridge has been laid on the hospital. The hospital cannot legally refuse to provide those services or curtail or otherwise impede reasonable access to them. The province, too, has a responsibility in law to pay the hospital for the provision of these services."

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Eves: The hospital has done its job and it has done it well. Now the responsibility is upon her, as the minister, and her government, to tell the people of Cambridge and Cambridge Memorial Hospital what services she does not think the people of Cambridge should have because she is going to reduce their budget and eliminate their deficit.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Obviously, this member does not listen. This was said. One year ago, the former minister announced there would be a review of how we fund hospitals to ensure that they are fairly funded. But Dennis Timbrell said it best in 1980, when he said: "If any hospital introduces a program or adds staff without obtaining approval by going through proper channels, thereby incurring a deficit beyond its global allocation, that hospital is operating outside the rules."

I expect hospitals to receive approval before they add staff and before they expand programs, because if they do not it is not fair to those hospitals, the 60 per cent of hospitals in this province which consistently meet their budgets, which want to expand their programs, which want to add new programs. This party—

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Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This might be the appropriate time to remind all members of—

Mr. Brandt: Tell us what services you are going to cut then.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Sarnia, order.

Mr. Brandt: We are having a little conversation.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that. This may be the appropriate time to remind all members of standing order 24(b). When one member is addressing the House, all members should refrain from making any comments. The member for Welland-Thorold.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Swart: I have a question of the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. Again, it is on the bereavement sector. I want to send to him a memo which was sent out by the president of Memorial Gardens, Philip Wilson, to all of his branches in Ontario, dated April 13.

In that, I point out to the minister, as he will know, Mr. Wilson claims to have had discussion with the ministry's director of the business regulation branch. That memo, which the minister now has, indicates that the director, Mr. Tappenden, is sympathetic to them.

Mr. Wilson says, "It seems impossible that we will not win on the vital issue of freedom to contact the public by telephone." Further, I want to tell the minister that the president of the Ontario Monument Builders Association, Brian O'Brine, has confirmed that he was told the same thing by Mr. Tappenden as late as May 5.

May I remind the minister that he told this House just two days ago that he is looking at all of the options with regard to this solicitation. Is it not really true that the decision has already been made and that he is going to permit the commercial cemeteries to continue with door-to-door and telephone solicitation?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: No.

Mr. Swart: I am glad to hear the answer "No." That means then that the minister is going to take some responsibility for this and that his official is not speaking for him.

Mr. Speaker: The member might bring along a supplementary.

Mr. Swart: I want to say, by way of supplementary, that the minister must have received letters, as I have, from the Consumers' Association of Canada, the Federation of Ontario Memorial Societies, the United Seniors of Ontario, the monument builders and the funeral directors, asking for the ban on solicitation and demanding a full separation of the bereavement industry into the funeral section, the cemetery section and the upright monument section.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I thought you asked if he had received letters from all those.

Mr. Swart: No, I said he must have. The question comes now. I want to remind the minister that the only ones supporting the telephone and door-to-door solicitation are the commercial cemeteries. So I want to ask him, unless he is totally in the pocket of the commercial cemeteries, why can he not give a commitment to this House today that his legislation will require the separation of the three

sectors and will prevent the distasteful practice of telephone and door-to-door solicitation by all sections of the bereavement industry?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I think the honourable member would know that we have had a very thorough and ongoing consultative process, which has included many of the groups to which the honourable member has referred.

Indeed, those groups have indicated to me that before final decisions are made, they will want to make one final attempt at representations. We have had them in, had discussions with them and sent them away with the understanding that there will be one more opportunity for them to put their position.

The member for Welland-Thorold puts his position quite eloquently, as he always does, and I know he feels very strongly about the need for a ban of telephone and door-to-door solicitation. I tell the honourable member very clearly that no decision has been made by me as to what position I will take before my colleagues as we bring in thorough changes.

But I share with my friend and with the House, and hopefully with those in this very sensitive area, the concern that I have about the lack of sensitivity with which a number of these operations have been carried out by a number of people in the past, and an expectation that those people who wish what Memorial Gardens and some others do—and there are some out there who wish that; I say that to my friend—will understand the sensitivity with which they ought to bring their commercial enterprise to this very difficult area.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Harris: To the Minister of Health concerning ministerial responsibility: over the last couple of days the minister was presented with overwhelming evidence that it was ministry policy for sale and leasebacks. She was presented with a letter dated June 3, 1987, before she was minister, to the former minister, sent out by an assistant deputy minister to the hospitals, talking about sale and leaseback provisions. Then she was presented with letters of approval from the area teams, which is how the ADM said it would work; the approvals were there.

Yesterday, I was astounded that in spite of that overwhelming evidence that those arrangements have been ministry policy since at least June 3, 1987, instead of apologizing to the House for the misinformation and instead of admitting that she should have known, she lashed out at staff and blamed everyone but herself.

I would like to know two things. First, does the minister have any evidence that staff acted improperly, that they did not have the authority, as they had back on June 3 with the former minister, to proceed? Second, she said that it is clearly understood that approval means approval by the minister, but how are hospitals and how are all the agencies she deals with to know when they get a letter from the ministry whether it has approval of the minister?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I took the opportunity yesterday to clarify that in this House. The information, when I first asked some time ago about sale and leaseback arrangements, was that the ministry had no approval process. I set the record straight yesterday when I said it came to my attention, that I saw that in fact there was a bureaucratic approval. I had never approved any leasebacks, nor had I delegated authority to anyone to do so. I have found the situation unacceptable and I have clarified that within the ministry and informed the staff that in future approval means approval by the minister.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: Let me go, then, by way of supplementary, to the famous Barkin letter that has been sent out to hospitals as to how they are now to deal with budgets and how they are to deal with the cutback process. Is this ministry policy when they get a letter from Dr. Barkin? How are they to know? Since the minister does not know herself what is going on in the ministry, how are the hospitals to know? How are the agencies she deals with to know? They get a letter from a director telling them about how to treat Barkin's letter. Do they have to wait for everything to be signed by the minister before they know anything is approved, or how they are to act?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think it is important for members of this House and for all those doing business with the ministry to know that when they receive a letter of approval for a project it will be signed by the minister.

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

Mr. Neumann: My question is for the Minister of Culture and Communications. First, I would like to congratulate the minister on the fine job she is doing in managing the combined function of culture and communications.

My question relates to an exciting and creative project planned for our community which will become a national focal point for telecommuni-

cations across Canada. It is a logical location because Brantford, being the birthplace of the telephone, is a logical place to put a project of national significance related to telecommunications.

The minister knows that phase 1 results of a study on this project were presented to her by the chairman of the board of directors for this project, Jean Claude Delorme. Since February, the minister has had the information. The community is awaiting the results. Has the minister had discussions with her federal counterparts, and can she give us any report on progress with respect to approval of phase 2?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: As the honourable member indicates, results of the first phase, which covers planning and development and which was funded to the tune of \$1 million, have now been received, with the exception of final audited statements. This leaves us in the position of working more strongly with our federal counterparts and moving towards the date when we will announce phase 2, that phase being implementation and construction. My department indicates that particular time line will be in either May or June, and we are working well together.

I agree with the member that it is a very significant project, and I have no fears that we will be moving forward as soon as that final audited statement on phase 1 is received.

Mr. Neumann: The land for the project is assembled. The design work is well under way. The displays for this major tourism effort have been designed. My question is, in view of the fact that construction costs could well escalate if construction is held up until next spring, would the minister ensure that there is effective communication between the provincial and federal levels to ensure an early announcement so that construction can commence this year rather than next year?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I wish to assure the member that the dynamics of good federal-provincial relations continue on this particular project. I am confident that we will be moving into construction during the summer months, and again I am hopeful the announcement will be made in June.

PENSION FUNDS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Financial Institutions. It was two weeks ago today that his caucus voted against my private member's resolution calling for indexation of pensions in Ontario. The minister is

obviously aware of the Friedland report and its recommendations, which would result in some indexation of pensions 30 or 40 years from now.

Is the minister closing the door on the possibility of indexing pensions for pensioners who are retired now, or is that being considered? If it is being considered, does the minister not think it would be wise to freeze contribution holidays so that the money will actually be in the pension plans to pay for the indexation?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member is correct that Professor Friedland made recommendations on indexing which do not include mandatory retro-active indexing. He has three or four specific indications, however, that are designed to persuade those people who have voluntarily gone into an approved pension program to provide at least partial indexing if not full indexing. Alternatives to Professor Friedland's recommendations are being considered, and this work is being undertaken by my ministry with the co-operation of other involved ministries.

Mr. B. Rae: Were you going to say something else, Minister?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I was about to say something, but I thought I'd wait to the next question.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There goes my supplementary.

I would then like to ask the minister probably the question that he was going to answer. Does it not seem appropriate that there should be a freeze on contribution holidays since millions of dollars are in effect being taken out of pension plans which could be used to improve pension plans now or certainly when his final policy decision comes in during the next number of weeks and we deal with the matter legislatively this fall?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: All the funds in the pension plans are frozen, but we have allowed contribution holidays to continue because of the requirements of the Department of National Revenue for Canada.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: That's not true.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It is. I am not going to quibble about the use of the words. In fact, the contribution holidays can be frozen and the money would go in, but the people making the contributions cannot reduce it from their taxation at the federal level. I do not think that is an appropriate suggestion even for a socialist, democratic or otherwise.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister of Housing. In April the province sold off

provincial lands in Scarborough at record high prices and in an inflationary style. Then yesterday there were meetings with the regional municipalities where the Premier (Mr. Peterson) lectured regional municipalities that they should be providing more affordable housing. It appears that these two positions of the government are contradictory.

When we consider that the price of land is probably the largest single expense in providing housing in Ontario today, how does the minister justify selling provincial lands in Malvern at what the Toronto Star quoted on April 7 as "The highest price ever paid for residential building lots in Metro" and then having the Premier threaten municipalities like Metro to provide affordable housing?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The conversation that we had with the regional municipalities yesterday focused on a variety of things that we could do together. What we identified were the things that the province could do to speed up the time of production of housing and what the regional municipalities could contribute to that process.

We also discussed, working in this way, the variety of servicing needs and infrastructure needs that could make a significant impact in the provision of housing that was affordable. I think that meeting went extremely well and we are moving very swiftly in the right direction together.

Mr. Jackson: The minister's policies in fact are not achieving that end at all. In fact, three points: since her government took office, of the 135,000 units it has promised, it has been able to come up with less than 40,000 units. Of the total dollars it will get out of its land-banked revenues from the sale of land-banked provincial properties, the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) gets only 25 per cent of those; the rest of the money goes to the federal government. Finally, the very act of the government's getting into a lottery or an auction for these lands is driving up the price of not only those lots but also all the lots in the neighbourhood. The government's policies are contributing to the inflation of housing prices in Metro Toronto.

What specifically did the Premier discuss with the regional municipalities about reducing those land costs so that they will become affordable, because the government's policies do not do that?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Actually, our policies on land are moving in exactly the direction that will provide housing that is more affordable than much of the housing that is currently being built.

Part of what we discussed yesterday is the land that the government of Ontario is prepared to and is going to, in an orderly fashion, put out in the process for building housing which is affordable to many groups of people.

We also discussed the lands that are currently held in some cases by the regional municipalities and by the regions, which are also prepared to look with us at a reasonable strategy for putting their lands and our lands into the building process in order to make sure that housing that is affordable gets built.

FILM DISTRIBUTION

Mrs. Fawcett: My question is to the Minister of Culture and Communications. After 14 long months of waiting for the proposed film distribution policy of the federal Minister of Communications, all we Canadians received was a significantly watered-down compromise, with a grade Z rating, I might add, on what could have been a very worthwhile proposal.

Could the minister please tell the House Ontario's reaction to this disappointing proposal for Canadian film distribution and how it could affect us in Ontario?

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I thank the member. Fourteen months ago, Ontario was very supportive of the federal government's legislation, which was extremely strong. That proposed legislation was supposed to take a look at the structure of Canadian film production and distribution, to allow Canadians to own and control distribution in their own home market. As members are aware, the Americans now control distribution, and will continue control under this watered-down legislation.

We are very concerned because at the moment they are also looking at Quebec legislation on distribution and for us this poses problems, especially on the co-operative arrangements of our productions with Quebec.

Our problems with the legislation relate to a strong licensing aspect, a process which will ensure that Canadian-based distributors have control of their own market and also control over the nationality of the distributor. We are extremely disturbed by this legislation. In addition, I think the federal government enacted some flim-flam, because in addition to introducing legislation, it gave us some funding initiatives which do not really amount to—

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Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. Supplementary.

Mrs. Fawcett: I would like to ask if the minister feels that this bowing to pressure has come from the strong lobby of major United States producers and that this is in fact another ploy with strong roots in the proposed United States bilateral agreement known as the free trade deal.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: With all due respect to Simon Reisman, I must say that these actions really confirm my very worst fears. I believe the federal government has acquiesced to the American lobbying efforts of Valenti, and I believe we will never ever be able to approach the 23 per cent control of distribution. In essence, this particular action really cuts to the heart of the Canadian identity and cultural sovereignty, and I say we were sold out on this trade deal.

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF ONTARIO HYDRO ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of Energy concerning the village of Warren, which is in the east end of my riding. The village is an administrative centre for Ontario Hydro and it also employs a whole host of other employees on its lines and in its forestry operations. Recently, I was advised by Ontario Hydro that it wanted to conduct a feasibility study to determine the possible cost savings of moving the administrative services, and those 12 jobs, from Warren to North Bay. If acted upon, the decision to relocate services to North Bay will result in tremendous losses not only in terms of revenue but also in terms of deterioration of service to the community.

I want to ask the minister, as a consequence, does he intend to intervene in this situation to determine that the best interests of that small community are going to be represented?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I appreciate the honourable member's interest in this particular situation. I do not have any specific details at this time, but I will look into it and make sure she is apprised of my findings.

Miss Martel: The minister knows that once a public utility like Hydro begins to relocate services out of one community to another, then anything else it has in a particular community is soon going to be lost. It was the agreement of myself and the town council, when I met with it and Hydro employees, that if the administrative centre were moved, then the lines and forestry operations were also going to be moved in the future.

Given the fact that Ontario Hydro has said that jobs would be relocated and not lost, and given

the fact that the costs are going to be very high—in fact, will destroy this community of only 560 people—will the minister not assure this House and the people of Warren today that he will do everything possible; in fact, that he will ensure Ontario Hydro will not move those jobs from Warren to North Bay?

Hon. Mr. Wong: I appreciate, as I indicated, the honourable member's very compassionate and humanitarian plea. I can assure her and the House that I will look into this matter and consider all the details and indicate to the honourable member what our findings are.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, the minister might be interested to know that the member for Nipissing supports the member in her efforts. I just thought he would be interested in knowing that.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Harris: My question is to the free spender from St. George. At last count, to the Treasurer, over 80,000 people had taken the time to write a Toronto paper—

Mr. Speaker: Order. To which minister?

Mr. Harris: The Treasurer, I said, sir.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; I did not hear that.

Mr. Harris: —protesting the smash-and-grab tactics this government has resorted to in support of its big spending habits. People in all parts of the province have said what the Treasurer is doing is wrong and unfair. Virtually every taxpayer in the town of Tillsonburg agreed. In the Oshawa plant, virtually every union worker took the time to sign petitions, all of which said, "You've gone too far."

Will the Treasurer not indicate that he has even some sympathy for the working people of this province and withdraw, at the very least, the regressive and inflationary increase in the sales tax? Can he tell us why his government finds it so much easier to raise taxes than it does to control its spending?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member knows, if he is fair, that the spending programs of the ministries of the government are planned and controlled and are operating in the best interests of the people of the province. Unfortunately, the mess we inherited three years ago is just now being set straight, as we have an opportunity to properly fund our schools, our roads, northern development, our environmental programs, and

most important of all, our hospitals and our medical care system.

Hon. Mr. Curling: Cue card; follow the script.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Is that a cue card?

Mr. Harris: That is my cue card. It says all the increases in environment went into administrative costs, not programs. But that is not my supplementary.

The Treasurer, last fall, did not tell the people that the price of the Liberal majority was going to be the biggest tax hike in Ontario's history. He did not tell them that then and he refuses to listen to them now. If the Treasurer will not listen to them, if his government will not listen to them, surely he will agree that the \$1.3 billion the taxpayers will be paying over a year should at least buy them admission to a hearing.

I ask the Treasurer if he will undertake to guarantee that neither he nor members of his party will block an opportunity for all the members of the public to come into full and open committee hearings on the budget bills that will increase taxes in this province.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member knows, as he is the budget critic and has perused the budget carefully, that of the increased funds that are going to be realized from the expansion of the revenue base, 40 per cent at least will go to health care. It seems strange to me that the irresponsible approach, which perhaps he has not taken but his colleagues are taking, towards the funding of hospital services, says on the one hand that we must spend more and on the other hand that we must tax less. That may make good sense for Tories, but it does not make sense for any reasonable person.

In response, I think the honourable member will be aware that the matters that come before this House are disposed of democratically and properly by the members of the House itself and I am quite prepared to live by their decision.

CANADA PENSION PLAN BORROWING

Mr. Mahoney: My question also is to the Treasurer. I have received several calls in relation to Canada pension plan borrowing. The main thrust of public concern is the claim that the provinces of Canada continually borrow from this fund with no intention of payback, and that the provincial governments are therefore putting their future pension moneys in jeopardy.

Are we jeopardizing the public's future pension moneys by borrowing from CPP? If this is not the case, what are the criteria for Ontario in

ensuring that our portion of the funds are fully repaid?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The honourable member was good enough to give me notice of the question. Therefore, I can inform him and the members of the House who may be interested that the repayment of Canada pension plan loans is on schedule. As a matter of fact, since we took office, we have repaid \$729 million of capital. This year alone, the interest payment that will be made on behalf of the borrowing from Canada pension plan by Ontario will be \$1,527,000,000.

I think I should make it clear that since this government took office, it has turned back a large proportion of the money that might have been available for us to borrow; it has been left at the federal level. Our borrowing on Canada pension plan has been turned on to Ontario Hydro, which uses it, of course, for productive purposes in establishing new Hydro plants.

Also, according to the budget, as the honourable member will be aware, and which prompted the question no doubt, \$2 billion of these funds will not be directed towards simply paying the bills of the province but will be directed through the Ontario Housing Corp. for low-interest loans for nonprofit housing purposes.

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Mr. Mahoney: With regard to the \$2-billion fund that the Treasurer mentioned, I would like to know, is the province solely responsible for acquiring these funds or are we in fact acting as an intermediary for housing corporations? How is the role of the provincial government defined in this matter?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Crown corporations have the right to borrow directly from the government of Canada and utilize these funds.

I think it is imperative, however, since the Ontario Housing Corp. will be doing this under the aegis of the budget and the Ministry of Housing, that in the final analysis we are responsible for the repayment. But in this instance, of course, the collateral will be the actual buildings that are constructed utilizing the funds made available.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH REORGANIZATION

Mr. Reville: My question is for the Minister of Health. Dr. Peter Faux, chief of psychiatry at Peel Memorial Hospital, was good enough to give me advance notice of the restructuring of the Ministry of Health. I have now been able to acquire from the press gallery the information kit that the minister has put out and I have been

reading it with great interest, although I must admit I find most of it to be incomprehensible gibberish.

I would like to ask the minister how she can make this statement: "...new directions for health care services in Ontario, with a stronger emphasis on community-based care, health promotion and disease prevention." Those are the minister's words and those are laudable goals. How will the minister manage to achieve those goals, when in fact there is no money in the budget that is in any way arranged in a different way than it has been in the past bad old days, which she is seeking to change with this reorganization? I wonder if she can tell me what this reorganization will do, given that they have no money to do it with.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I look forward to discussing this subject in estimates because that is where we have the opportunity to look line by line, and discuss the plan. In fact, I know the deputy minister spent some time before the committee discussing the reorganization plans for the ministry and the focus in the future.

I am proud of our commitment to community mental health and our commitment to double resources over the next three years. Those resources are available and in the budget. We are looking at a co-ordinated and integrated approach to planning.

Let me say to the member in closing that one of the reasons I am determined to bring predictability to hospital budgeting is so that in fact we can move towards community-based services. We know there are many things that are done in our institutions that can be better done in the community. With finite resources, we must bring predictability into our budgeting so that we can plan better and move to the expansion of community-based services, which are a priority with me along with health promotion and illness prevention programs.

PETITIONS

CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

Mr. Henderson: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario and urge speedy passage of Bill 95, An Act to amend the Children's Law Reform Act. We support the proposed legislation regarding a rebuttable presumption in favour of joint custody by both the father and mother in the case of a separation and/or divorce."

This petition has been signed by about 112 Ontarians and by me.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Harris: I have a petition signed by 2,000 irate taxpayers in the province of Ontario which reads as follows:

Mr. Callahan: I want you to file that card, Mike.

Mr. Harris: They keep telling us we do not get this in exactly the right spot, so I am trying to get it in the right spot.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

This brings to 6,000 the petitions submitted in opposition to the budget.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Henderson: "To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we would like to keep Sunday as commerce-free as possible, we therefore would like to indicate that in a poll conducted in Etobicoke, 453 residents opposed wide-open Sunday shopping while only 22 were in favour."

Mrs. Marland: I have here approximately 1,750 petitions to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor, and they say in part:

"We, the undersigned, object to the decision to pass the responsibility for seven-day retailing on to the municipalities and we object to the inevitable increased costs and the elimination of the opportunity for a common day of pause for our families."

They are signed by residents and customers throughout Ontario and presented by Howard Kitchen of the Lansing Buildall lumber company. I am happy to add my signature to these petitions.

Mr. Runciman: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor. It is from the Athens Christian Reform Church.

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario;

"Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for

family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

It is signed by approximately 300 members of that church.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that notwithstanding order 71(h), the requirement for notice be waived with respect to ballot item 24, standing in the name of the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague).

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

PRIMROCK MINING AND EXPLORATION LIMITED ACT

Mr. Henderson moved first reading of Bill Pr35, An Act to revive Primrock Mining and Exploration Limited.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Reville moved that pursuant to standing order 37(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside on Thursday, May 12, 1988, to discuss a matter of urgent public importance; that being the government's arbitrary and heavy-handed approach to hospitals facing budget cutbacks, forcing cuts in vitally needed services to people, at the same time refusing to release its reviews of all 22 hospitals facing serious deficits, while doing nothing to provide funding for community-based alternatives to hospitals which would, if put in place, relieve some of the pressure on hospitals.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Reville has moved that the ordinary business of the House be set aside for the reasons you have just heard. This notice of motion was received at my office at 5:18 p.m. yesterday afternoon and therefore was in time. I will listen to the honourable member, as well as representatives from the other parties, for up to five minutes if that is necessary.

1510

Mr. Reville: In fact, we have heard three sets of speeches about the necessity of a debate on the hospital situation in Ontario over the last three days—on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. In each of those three cases, the Health critic for the Progressive Conservative Party has joined me in calling on the Legislature as a whole to agree this was a matter that did require urgent

discussion and a matter of sufficient public importance that we should indeed set aside the ordinary business scheduled for the House.

On the first of those three occasions—Monday—the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston), and on the second and third—Tuesday and Wednesday—the government House leader, rose in their places to argue that while the concern I have been expressing in respect of hospitals—their funding problems, their service needs and their desire to meet the needs of the communities they serve while being hampered by the government's approach to their funding problems as well as the government's inability to put in place those community programs that would take pressure off hospitals—was important, it was not of sufficient importance to override the schedule of the day.

I have had some further conversations with representatives of the government. I believe they have now decided it would not perhaps be totally within the view they take of the rules of this House but, notwithstanding their view of the rules, they would allow this debate to proceed.

I think it is appropriate for me to underscore the fact that we on this side have seen a situation in the province in respect to hospital and community health funding that does worry us, and we did want to have a focused debate on the matter. We were hoping that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) would be here to hear the views of the members of this Legislature on the matter, and I understand the minister is going to make herself available.

With that, I will take my place and will listen with interest to the other two speeches I hope to hear. I look forward to engaging in a vigorous debate on this matter this afternoon.

Mr. Harris: The critic for the New Democratic Party and the critic for our party have spoken on this three days in a row now, as has been pointed out.

I want to point out that the fact it is the House leader for our party speaking now—and that may convince everybody to accept the debate—is not one that people should draw their conclusions from. In fact, it has been the combined efforts of the two critics for both parties that I think have predetermined that the government will allow the debate to go ahead today.

It is an important debate. It is important that we focus in on health care costs, particularly as set out in this motion, with what is happening with our institutions, our hospitals and the deficits that are there.

I find it ironic that the government did not feel this was of significant importance throughout this week when, as each day went by, example after example and new information came forward on how hospitals are being treated in their deficit problems. The minister became more heavy-handed and more heavy-handed and more heavy-handed, when there was talk of the sale and leaseback question that hospitals were having to resort to to try and just have enough money to get through this year.

I think all of us agree that particularly some of those examples are not efficient ways and are not in the long-term interest of the government, as far as allowing hospitals to have sufficient money to operate.

The chief response, as we say, is that if there is a \$50,000 benefit this year, the tax cost to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) over a period of years is much higher than that. Obviously, the more efficient way is to go in, look at the problems those hospital have and give them an adequate level of funding if—and I say if—they are operating within the rules and if they are operating efficiently.

These examples have been pointed out. Whenever somebody has to resort to flailing away and blaming somebody else, it is usually a pretty good sign that there is something wrong. In this example, the minister said: "I didn't know anything about it. It's not my fault."

The fact that obviously some minister somewhere along the line—a year or a year and a half ago—knew what was going on does not seem to concern her. The fact that she has not been able to learn what is going on in her ministry over the past year, or almost a year that she has been there, does not seem to concern her. She blames somebody else. We deal with the hospital in Cambridge; she blames the administration at the hospital in Cambridge. We are talking about a co-operative way to solve what is a very difficult problem.

I was absolutely astounded with a statement I heard yesterday, a totally unprovoked statement that was made in a very provocative way. A ministry team of officials went to talk with a committee of the hospital board and in one of the examples they pointed out the severity of the problem. They said: "Look, we can cut services. You can give us the money, but if you are not going to do that, we will cut services here. These are the options we have to take forward."

To illustrate to the ministry officials in a confidential and quiet way the magnitude of the problem, they pointed out that if they did not get

the money from the government and if they did not cut services, it would cost \$150 for every emergency patient admitted and \$50 a day. That is the amount of money that they were talking about.

At no time did the board say that is what it is going to do. It did not meet as a board. It was pointing out in a co-operative way that this is the extent of the problem, and then the minister accuses it of wanting to slap on a \$200 user fee. The board has not even met on it yet.

That is not a co-operative approach. Usually, and I think for sure in this case, when somebody starts flailing away, accusing others and blaming others of the problem, it is a sign that things are out of control, and she has no control of this particular ministry. At least, that is the way it appears to us on this issue. I think it is an important debate today. I hope, too, that it is a focused debate—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Harris: —and I congratulate all members who worked to see that it finally proceeds.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Again I have listened with some care to the interventions of my colleagues opposite. The member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) has introduced, I forget what number of requests now for an emergency debate. I repeat to the member and his friend the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) and others that the government has said from the outset that it views the whole question of health care planning, policy and program development as a significant and understandable issue that we would all want to debate.

Our intention was to set aside this afternoon to debate that very question under the supply motion, the estimates concurrence motion. I thought that was a perfectly reasonable proposal because it is equally clear that the request, understandable and important as it is, that the member for Riverdale put again today for an emergency debate does not meet the requirements of an emergency as intended under standing order 37.

But I am not going to bore the House with that. I think that is the reality, but this has to do with more than just reality. As government House leader, I have an obligation and a responsibility to the taxpayers out there to ensure that the important business of this Legislature proceeds. The government has important legislation in the area of tenant protection, northern economic development, assessment reform, local government

reform and we want, of course, to proceed on that basis.

1520

Mrs. Marland: So why don't you do that instead of Sunday shopping?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland) chimes in, parenthetically, that there are other matters she is anxious to debate, and, from whatever altitude, I am sure we will all want to engage in that debate.

I have to say that I am very familiar with parliamentary calisthenics. I recognize calisthenics—to use the most neutral phrase that I can use on a happy afternoon like this—and what can we say of that? The House leaders met this morning. We have an understanding that the debate we all want for today, namely a debate on health care, will take place. That was my intention all along.

It is not, in my view, an emergency debate. I am quite prepared to give the opposition an opposition day. It seems to be their desire, quite frankly, that we have a sessional amendment to the practices and standing orders, really to allow opposition days by other names. We are quite prepared this afternoon to let this debate proceed because that was our intention in the first instance and we thought we had, by agreement, an arrangement to do that. We have, for what it is worth, an undertaking that next week we will proceed to deal with important legislation in the area of tenant protection, northern economic development, school board reform and other matters in so far as assessment change is concerned.

I sincerely hope, in the interests of an orderly parliament and the population outside of this chamber, that we can proceed to meet those obligations and allow those very important debates of interest to the citizenry of northern Ontario, and of the regional municipality of Waterloo, and all of those tenants who expect this government to do what it wants to do, which is to enact tenant protection; and that all of that important government business, business in the interests of a better Ontario, can be dealt with, debated seriously and moved forward expeditiously.

So we will have this afternoon the very debate that the government was anxious to have and I am certainly going to be interested to listen to that debate. I repeat for the benefit of my friends opposite that it is not my view at all that this repeated request falls under the provisions of standing order 37. But, quite frankly, it is spring

and calisthenics are not my first interest in springtime.

Mr. Speaker: Three members of the House have had the opportunity to speak on this matter. We will now deal with it according to standing order 37(d) and I will put the question, shall the debate proceed?

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: I would remind all members that each member who wishes to speak will have up to 10 minutes, and when all members who have wanted to speak have spoken, or the hour of six arrives, that will complete the debate.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Reville: It gives me great pleasure to lead off the emergency debate. I am sorry that the government House leader has left because I sat patiently and attentively throughout his pious lecture.

Mr. Ballinger: He will be right back. He is indisposed.

Mr. Reville: I can see why he might be indisposed. I thank the former mayor of Uxbridge very much. I am trying to figure out what riding he represents here.

Mr. Ballinger: Durham-York.

Mr. Reville: Durham?

In any event, the government House leader has now returned and pointed out that he thinks we are engaging in parliamentary calisthenics, by which I presume he means some kind of what my parents used to call "physical jerks." I do not mean to be unparliamentary. I am trying not to call anyone in this House a physical jerk because I know they are all highly intellectual men and women and not at all physical.

I do view this as a genuine emergency, quite apart from any narrow and somewhat arcane and perhaps meaningless interpretations of the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly. In fact, what is before us is a situation in which the absolute heart of virtually every community in Ontario appears to be under threat by this government. When I say "heart," I mean the hospital that serves the 222 communities in Ontario, the place we all look to to solve various acute health problems we may encounter.

In the wake of well-publicized statements by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), who, for his other attributes, is also reasonably well known as somewhat of a parsimonious old farmer, people begin to worry as they sit at their kitchen tables, as they sit at their work benches, and they say, "I wonder if the Treasurer is going to cut the budget

at my neighbourhood hospital?" They say to themselves, "I wonder if holding my community hospital to a 4.4 per cent increase or even a 6.9 per cent increase or, depending on which shell you find the pea under, some other percentage of increase"—the Treasurer seems to be sitting on something that made him uncomfortable; I recommend a large number of mattresses. In any event—

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: There are no cuts.

Mr. Reville: Mr. Speaker, I am being interrupted by the Minister of Health, who I am sure will probably want to speak shortly. I think she will speak for about 10 minutes, like me.

There are 90 hospitals in Ontario which are running deficits currently, not 22; there are 90 hospitals running deficits. There are some 130 other hospitals in Ontario which are not running deficits but which have been told to be careful husbands of their money, and that is an appropriate thing for a Treasurer or a Minister of Health to tell an operator that delivers various kinds of health services.

The problem with the message is that the message is mixed. The message has come down very sternly from the Treasurer, "No, we are not picking up any deficits." The message has come down in two ways from the Minister of Health. In the case of the hospital in Timmins, apparently the Minister of Health believed it was a special case; perhaps she believed it was being funded as a community hospital, not a regional hospital, and required additional funds. But in the case of Cambridge, the minister has issued what amounts to a very vicious attack on the board of governors which is responsible for the operation of that hospital, and I find that a pretty scary message.

We have discussed throughout the last few days the 22 hospitals in question on the review. The Ontario Hospital Association says there are 23 and thinks the ministry must have forgotten one, but I think I understand how that has happened. I think there are hospitals which operate in a group and are being reviewed under one review, even though there are two hospitals.

The health care system, as people well know, has a number of different parts to it. The part which is the most expensive to operate is clearly the institutional part. The 222 hospitals, in fact, use up an enormous amount of public money—almost \$6 billion. That is a huge amount of public money, and the government is charged with the responsibility of making sure that amount of public money is spent wisely.

The dilemma I have with the government training its gimlet eye on just the hospitals is that, in fact, the government has turned a blind eye on parts of the health care system where the costs are increasing far more rapidly than are the costs for the hospital sector.

1530

I think it is appropriate for the government to make protestations that what it wants is good planning. Obviously, we want good planning, and I know the Minister of Health does not really believe that the member for York South (Mr. B. Rae), the leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, really secretly harbours some lust for user fees. I do not believe that the Minister of Health, who is in fact in charge of the largest ministry in Ontario, could possibly be so ill informed that she would think the leader of the New Democratic Party, a democratic socialist, would ever for a moment countenance user fees.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The NDP was championing the Cambridge initiatives.

Mr. Reville: The Treasurer makes an intervention, which I assume he made through the Deputy Speaker, which says that we were championing Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Let us make it clear. We are championing—that is a hard word to say—we are on the side of the people of Cambridge, and we think they should be delivered a full range of health services in a timely way. If, terrified by the combined forces of the Treasurer of Ontario and the Minister of Health, they should blurt out that they should consider user fees, I think the Minister of Health would not want to look to this side of the House for support for that approach. We clearly do not support, and I will say uncategorically that we do not support now, nor will we support in the future, user fees in respect of the health care system.

If the Minister of Health, on the other hand, does not deal in a co-operative, open fashion with hospitals, she should not be surprised that they may use a few tactics of their own, such as suggesting a user fee and saying, “All right, if you will not give us the money to run the programs that we think should be run in this community and for which there is a demand and for which there are lengthening waiting lists, then we will come forward with all sorts of goofy proposals, all manner of proposals which, in fact, people who think carefully about a health care system would never support.”

Had the minister provided appendix C, the hospital board position, when she released her battleaxe on Cambridge Memorial Hospital, we

could have read and tittered at some of the requests that were being made, and we could have read a lot about leasebacks and begun to wonder just who is in charge in the ministry and how the minister will ever possibly sign all those approvals in view of the fact that it currently takes about four months to get a response from the Ministry of Health. That too, I guess, will change under the new reorganization, if in fact anybody in the Ministry of Health can find his desk.

I have enjoyed participating in this debate. I look forward to other comments.

Mr. Eves: It is a pleasure for me to rise and participate in this debate which we are now having, at a delay of some four days, in the Legislature. I think we should try to cover several topics, although all will not be possible in the 10 minutes allotted per member.

The various topics that I think we should touch upon are hospital deficits in the province, the attitudes and statements enunciated by representatives of the government—the Treasurer and the Minister of Health, in particular—and some of the more particularly acute situations in health care in the province, such as cardiovascular surgery and orthopaedic surgery and delays with respect to those as well.

I think we have had a couple of good examples this week of the problem with respect to hospital deficits and funding or lack of funding of the same, dealing, first of all, with the issue of St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins. St. Mary's hospital was put in the position of having to announce proposed cuts of some 40 beds and laying off some 40 staff before it gathered the attention of the ministry officials, who scurried to Timmins over the weekend. The ministry officials, I might add, rethought their position. Then we had an admission from the minister in the House earlier this week as a result of the hospital and ministry officials meeting that, indeed, they had overlooked the fact that St. Mary's was a regional facility, required many specialists and was required to serve many people from northeastern Ontario and, on that basis, perhaps their base budget was not adequate and that that would have to be rethought and would have to be taken care of.

The minister, however, as my colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) pointed out, was very careful in that she did not say the entire deficit of St. Mary's would be funded; nor did she articulate which portion of the deficit or how much of it would be funded; nor did she say what services, if any, would be cut back. She

said the proposed cuts would not take place, if I recall her language correctly.

Then we had the situation later in the week of Cambridge Memorial Hospital, which has materialized over the last couple of days. Here we have a situation where, according to the hospital administrator whom we have been talking to for the last couple of days, the executive committee of the hospital had proposed a range of options available to the hospital, as they saw it, to propose to the board so the board could discuss them at a meeting today, as a matter of fact. They thought that in the spirit of co-operation and consultation with the ministry, they would share that draft range of ideas with the ministry officials so that this could be discussed and so that the ministry, to quote the administrator, "could have some input into the matter."

Unfortunately, the minister's idea of input and discussion is to announce unilaterally in the Legislature, without any prior indication to the hospital board or the administrator, that she was sending an investigator in under the Public Hospitals Act. I presume this investigator is going to review the same facts she has had already in the Woods Gordon review, at some expense to the taxpayer, and to have the same facts reviewed which the hospital had its own independent consultant review, before Woods Gordon reviewed it, I might add.

Yet in spite of that, the minister does not want to share this review with us; we had to get it through some internal fashion. I think that is most inappropriate. It would have been better if the minister had just tabled the review. Indeed, it would be most appropriate if the minister would table in the Legislature the review of all 22 hospitals, which she and her officials now have had some 42 days to consider.

At no time was the proposed range of ideas by the executive committee at Cambridge Memorial Hospital an adopted plan of action by the board. I think that fact should be made perfectly clear in this discussion about sending in an administrator or not. I would have liked to think that the more appropriate way for the ministry and the minister to have proceeded would have been to sit down with the board, which was meeting today, and discuss those various options and let it be known to the board in no uncertain terms which ones they thought were suitable and how they could go about meeting their problems.

After all, I think every hospital board member, probably for every hospital board in Ontario, and every administrator, is there trying in all good conscience and working very sincerely and

dedicatedly towards providing health care service to the people of Ontario in the communities and areas which that particular institution serves. I think that is indeed what they should be doing. That is indeed what they are obligated to do, "legally, morally and ethically, "by legislation, regulation and Ministry of Health directive," as the hospital points out in its minority report at the end of the Woods Gordon review.

I also quote from a few areas of the Woods Gordon review. There are some major conclusions that Woods Gordon comes to, none of which, I might add, includes sending in an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act.

"Quality of management," the opening statement: "The area of quality management is not a contributing factor to the deficit situation at Cambridge Memorial Hospital.... The management process is sound and the information available to the board and to senior administration for decision-making is extensive, timely and accurate."

"Program/service enhancements," the opening statement there: "The hospital operates within a documented and controlled medical manpower plan. Any new appointments are assessed against the plan and the financial impact is estimated prior to approval."

It does go on to say that the area of general practice is not controlled, however, and the hospital is currently operating at 46 per cent above the guidelines. However, the hospital goes on to explain why it is doing that. It goes on to explain the rapid growth in the area of Cambridge. It goes on to explain the huge population growth.

1540

We go to the departmental efficiencies component, and one of the conclusions is, as I read in the House this afternoon, in terms of productivity and unit cost, "Cambridge Memorial Hospital has performed better than most of its peers."

What does that tell the other 200-and-some hospitals out there in the province of Ontario? If this is the type of action that Cambridge can expect—and it is performing better than most of its peers—I hate to think what is in store for the other hospitals in Ontario.

"System-wide efficiencies: ... There have been no major system-wide inefficiencies that would have significantly impacted on the deficit." That is the opening line in that portion of the report.

It does, however, outline some significant factors which account for the huge increase in expenditures by this particular hospital.

"Our conclusions are:

"1. Wages and prices for drugs and hospital supplies have increased significantly since 1981-82 and may have impacted on the deficit.

"2. The population in the community has increased and this has resulted in increased volumes in costs for the hospital.

"3. There is increased competition in the community from private medical clinics which has affected the non-MOH revenues for radiology and laboratory services."

Those are the three major significant factors identified by Woods Gordon in their report.

They also have a plan of action which the minister could have chosen to implement. Why pay for a study if you are not going to listen to what they tell you?

"Our key recommendations are:

"To establish an implementation committee to oversee the implementation of the recommendations;

"To establish a 'growth committee' to identify all potential opportunities, to manage the future growth/expansion of hospital programs and services and to maximize revenue generation opportunities;

"To implement a plan for identifying and implementing all potential efficiencies associated with the hospital information system;

"To assist the medical staff to make more efficient use of hospital resources, including:

"a system to block bookings in the or;

"an admission management system and geographical bed allocations."

Those are the four major recommendations. It would have been very simple for the Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health to implement them in the co-operative, consultative approach that she says she is in favour of, instead of sending in an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act.

I would like to talk more about Cambridge, but I do not want to use up all of my time, which I have almost used up, addressing that problem. I think it is a very significant and serious problem within the system, because I think it shows us what the other 200 hospitals in the province have to look forward to, especially those 90 that have some deficits. I would hate to think what is going to happen to the other 21 that are undergoing review.

With respect to cardiovascular surgery, which is an issue I have spent some time on over the last couple of weeks, I can only say that the situation is indeed appalling out there. The average cardiovascular heart patient who is going to need open-heart surgery in Ontario, on average, has to

wait somewhere between eight months and a year from the time he or she is identified as having a problem. Going through the diagnostic tests, their surgery, their stay in hospital and the recuperation period, they are expected, in this great province of Ontario, with a supposedly world-class health system, to wait for one year. If they are lucky to survive a year, they may be able to resume a normal and healthy life after the period of one year.

I do not think the health care system in this province is in such a great state—

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: While I do not believe there is any need for an emergency debate, I am delighted, on Canada Health Day, to have an opportunity to talk about and participate in the health care system in Ontario, which is the envy of the world.

There are many challenges and there are many opportunities. The challenge that we accept is to ensure that future generations of this province will continue to enjoy high-quality, accessible health care.

The people of Ontario believe, and rightly so, that universal health care is one of the greatest achievements of our age. They value it and they want it protected. At the same time, public attitudes about health have also changed. The old cliché applies, and that is, change is constant. We only have to look back over the past decade to see just how true that reality is, so we must plan for it and we must manage it or we will end up reacting to it.

Part of this change has brought us to really a crucial time in health care in Ontario, because there is, I think, a growing realization that the fiscal pie is only so big and only so many demands can be put on it. A decade ago the health care allocation accounted for 27 per cent of provincial spending. Now the health care system takes a full one third, 33.2 per cent, of the provincial budget. That is equal to \$1.4 million an hour.

On a per capita basis, in Canada we spend on health care an amount surpassed only by the United States. We are number one in the world in terms of health care spending per capita for a publicly funded, universally accessible health care system. Yes, we have even surpassed Sweden, the model for the universal system, in our per capita funding.

Yet some will say that \$12.7 billion a year is not enough. They say that the system is underfunded and that what is needed is a massive

infusion of new funding into the institutional hospital sector.

Let us look at the funding of our provincial institutions. In the past four fiscal years, 1985 to 1989, operational funding for hospitals has increased by some 39 per cent. On the national scene, a Canadian Medical Association task force set up in 1983 said in its final report—this is in 1983—that it could not support the contention that there is underfunding generally in Canada.

In the early 1980s the Canadian Medical Association said that in Canada we should be spending 8.2 per cent of our gross national product on health care. The latest figures show that we are spending 8.62 per cent in Canada. That compares, by the way, with about 5.7 per cent in Britain. Compared to Britain, our per capita spending is double that of the Brits. I use the British example because that is the one it seems we are always compared with, and in fact the figures show there is simply no comparison.

The problems and issues we face in Ontario go beyond simply the addition of more beds, more equipment and more programs. We realize that our system must continue to move from its institutional bias to one that provides for a balanced network of community care. There is much that can be done outside of the hospital sector in a more effective manner.

This is not a problem which is unique to Ontario, however. Many other provinces and countries in the western world are taking steps to manage existing resources and redirect their priorities to get the most value for their health care dollars.

The challenges are great. Our government, within the parameters of the Canada Health Act, is working to steer our course towards a better-managed and more manageable health care system. We are doing this in consultation with many groups, and many have already accepted the opportunity to meet the challenge and be responsible managers of our precious health resource.

We have initiated the Premier's Council on Health Strategy to look at long-term strategic directions. We recognize as well that health goes beyond the traditional mandate of the Ministry of Health. We must have quality education, we must have good environment, we must have housing, our social safety net. All of this contributes to good health in this province.

I believe that health care professionals can and should become more involved in efficiently and effectively managing our health care system. That is the reason I started the Scott task force,

which is looking into factors affecting physician services. It is also the reason that I asked Dr. Lowy to head up the Lowy drug inquiry, to determine how we can look at bringing quality of care and ensuring that the dollars that we are spending on drugs in this province will result in good health.

1550

The financial uncertainty that we are finding in the institutional sector and the number of deficits cause me grave concern. I can say that in this process of dialogue and consultation, I am determined, as well, to be decisive. One of the indications of this decisiveness is our thorough review of the hospital reimbursement system. This review was brought on by the fact that so many of our hospitals have had repeated deficits, some 22, even after substantial adjustments had been made.

As I have stated in this House, the first phase of the review will look for those chronic and root problems, because this financial uncertainty in the hospital sector is unhelpful and unnecessary, and we are determined to eliminate deficits altogether and restore some predictability to our global budgeting processes. The key to doing this is to properly and prudently manage our resources, human and fiscal.

The overwhelming majority of our hospitals in this province meet their budgets or even achieve surpluses. It is very important then that the second phase of this review process assess how we fund hospitals. The aim of this second phase is to make sure that the goals of fairness and equity of access and services are available right across this province. If we have 222 hospitals independently adding programs and services without approval from the ministry, what we will end up with is chaos.

As Minister of Health, I accept the responsibility to plan for needed services and programs, and I rely on advice from district health councils. All of us, I am sure—and I am sure you agree, Madam Speaker—see the need for rational use of limited resources. Unlike some in this House, I recognize that there is not a bottomless well or an endless pit of money, and the Treasurer has been very generous in his allocation of resources to the ministry of some \$12.7 billion.

Of the amounts of revenue raised in the recent budget, in fact, the Ministry of Health received some 40 per cent of all new revenues. At the present point in time, 33.2 per cent of all provincial spending goes through the Ministry of Health to our health care system, 85 per cent of that to our hospitals. I believe we can find a

balance between community and institutional care, exploring new and innovative approaches to funding and to the delivery of health care, because I think it is essential. I think it is essential for us to be innovative, creative, to bring predictability, to recognize that while so many of our resources are now going to the institutional sector, only through that predictability will we have the resources available to move to the community-based setting that everyone is telling us is the approach for the future.

Together, I sincerely believe that we will meet these challenges, and I believe that I will have support from the members of this House to achieve our goal and continue to be the envy of the world.

Mr. B. Rae: I appreciate the chance to participate in the debate. I want to say to the minister, first of all, that whether the system is generally underfunded or not is a question, frankly, that health care economists can debate for a very long time.

What the ideal figure is as a percentage of gross national product or gross domestic product or whatever it may be, if the minister will just listen to what I am saying, is, it seems to me, an issue that one can argue about for a long time. But what cannot be disputed is what people in Sault Ste. Marie or Cambridge or Windsor, or indeed Ottawa, or around the Northwestern General Hospital, which is where I am going to be going from this place when I finish speaking—it is a simple fact, and that is in the space of the last three weeks, working Ontarians know two things: they know first of all that the Treasurer has increased their taxes; and they know that as soon as that announcement was made, he made another announcement. That is, that hospital cutbacks are going to ensue across the province.

I know the government objects when I say that, and I know that it hurts when they hear that. But the reality for patients in this province is that they are now being asked to pay more and to get less. I think that the patients in this province are perhaps justified in saying to the government: "Surely, we can do better than that. Surely, if we are going to be taxed heavily; surely, if a Liberal government is going to come in and take more than \$1 billion out of our pockets, the very least we can expect is that the next week the announcement will not be that hospital services are going to be cut back, but rather that access to health care will continue to be there and indeed, in many cases, will be expanded. That is not unreasonable.

What is unreasonable is to have a government that reaches into the pockets of every citizen and taxes him or her after having an election campaign in which not once did it raise the question of taxes and the next week announce that there are going to be hospital cutbacks across the province. We are entitled to better than that, and we are entitled to better management from the Minister of Health and from the Ministry of Health.

The minister had the gall to get up today and blame the hospital in Cambridge and say it has had a 41 per cent increase in its budget in the last five years. The minister should have a look at Ontario health insurance plan payments. Does she have any idea how much they have gone up in the last five years? Does she have any idea how much physicians' incomes have gone up in the last five years? Does she have any idea how much the budgets of private laboratories have gone up in the past five years? Does she have any idea how much the drug plan has expanded in the last five years? In each and every instance, it is way over 41 per cent.

In the cases of physicians' incomes, and the minister knows it perfectly well because it is in the material presented to us by the Treasurer of Ontario, they have gone up exponentially higher; dramatically higher; astrologically, astronomically higher than they have with respect to the payments to hospitals.

What is wrong with what she has done is that it is not a philosophical question of general underfunding. It is a question of real mismanagement by her ministry; people are paying more and getting less. That is what they see and that is what troubles them, that is what bothers them, and that is what offends them.

What offends hospitals is to see that when it comes to the members of the Ontario Medical Association, what does the minister do? She says, "Well, we are going to set up a task force with five people who are doctors, and we are going to have three bureaucrats, and it will be chaired by Mr. Scott," whom, I am sure, everyone who has met him knows as a very nice man who was a former deputy minister under the Conservative government, an aide to Robert Stanfield for many years, and someone who, one would expect after being an aide to Robert Stanfield, has a considerable sense of humour and philosophy about life. Mr. Scott is being asked to work on a task force over an indefinite period of time, whose administrative costs are being paid for by the OMA to look at the

problem, to look at the question of what they call patient utilization.

What do we get for the private laboratories? No announcements with respect to what is going to be done.

With respect to drugs: In the week that we were here in February, we presented information to the minister—she did not present it to us; she did not say, “I’ve got somebody resigning because he’s so upset about our refusal to deal with the drug-plan problem.” We raised that question in the House. She has to concede that there is a problem. And once the House adjourned, she asked yet another doctor to conduct yet another study with respect to the question of drugs.

The minister cannot say the situation is under control. She can talk glibly about all the community things she wants to do. They have not done them. The minister has not done them. The minister cannot turn around and blame hospitals, when in many cases in Cambridge there are no adequate places for patients outside of hospital.

The programs that are there in terms of home care are insufficiently and inadequately funded. The Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) has come into the House to say, “There is no more money available to expand the plan.” The government has nurses who are working, and visiting homemakers who are working, who are being paid as little as \$4.50 per hour and \$5.00 per hour in the plan. It is impossible to take this government seriously when it comes to the control of health care costs.

What is the minister’s response to us? It is, first of all, to leave the House in the middle of my speech. But second of all, in question period it is to say that the New Democratic Party is in favour of user fees.

I cannot use the term in this House that would describe the response to that argument. All I can say to the House is that it is not true and the minister knows it is not true. I have no idea why she would make that kind of a statement, but she knows that it simply is not the case.

1600

What are we debating here? We are debating a problem which will not go away, and we are debating it because of the value that all of us place on health and the value that all of us place on having a system that is caring, that is there for people and that takes away, if I may say so, some of the extraordinary anxiety which all of us attach to getting sick.

We have built this system at great cost. We have struggled to build a system which the

minister rather glibly says is “the best in the world.” I want to say to the minister that is not something which is necessarily true every day, that is not something which every patient experiences as a matter of personal experience. I want to say to the minister that it is something that her government is going to have to look at, deal with and face up to.

They cannot continue to administer the system in the way in which it is being run. They cannot announce on a Thursday or a Wednesday that they are going to increase taxes and announce the next week that their revenue to hospitals is going to be frozen at 4.4 per cent. They cannot increase their tax take by as much as 11 per cent, then turn around and say, “We are only going to give 4.5 per cent to the hospitals,” and then have what I think can only be described as the effrontery to say, “We are not asking the hospitals to cut back on services.” Of course they are.

At least, the Liberal Party should have the courage to admit that what in fact it is doing today is two things. It is saying to the citizens of Ontario, “You are going to have to pay more”; and it is saying to the citizens of Ontario, “You are going to have to get less.” That is not a message which I am prepared to accept. That is not a message our party is prepared to accept. We think we can do better.

We had a debate today, perhaps because it is Canada Health Day but I think more than ever because the minister knows perfectly well how serious this problem is and that it is not confined to the 22 hospitals that are on the list. It is attached to every single hospital that is now having to meet that 4.4 per cent requirement.

The minister says there are very few hospitals that have deficits. Let me speak about a number of hospitals which do not have a deficit, but know full well that if they are not going to have a deficit at the end of the year, then the only way they can reach that requirement is by cutting back.

So I say to those Liberal members who are in communities and represent constituencies whose hospitals are not on that list of 22, that they should not be so sure that this summer they are not going to find an announcement that a service which they have relied on and which their constituents have relied on and counted on is being cut. They should not be so sure that they are going to have the same access to those beds, because people are not going to be able to get back into the community because the home care programs are not there either.

We do face a major challenge. It is not going to go away. It is not easy. The minister says there is

no bottomless pit. Nobody in this House believes there is a bottomless pit. What we do believe is that there is time for some effective decisions.

Yes, it is a time to make priorities, to deal with the community care problems that our Health critic has been raising so effectively, to make them more of a priority, but to recognize as well that we have to get people working in the system who enjoy it.

We have got to keep the people in the system who are working there. We have got to create a genuine partnership among all the people working in the health care system, and to see that everybody is treated fairly. If we have one standard for some people working in the system and another standard for nurses who are working in the system, do not be surprised if those people start to leave the system, which is precisely what we have seen.

Too many nurses are having to vote with their feet. We are troubled by the failure of this government to understand just how serious this problem is. As a party which has played such a critical role nationally and provincially in the formation of this plan, in its growth and in its nurturing, we intend to do everything we can to nurture the health care plan which is so precious to all of us in the New Democratic Party.

Mrs. Cunningham: We all have responsibilities in this House, no matter what our title and no matter what our party, to represent the public and to speak on its behalf. I think today that our real responsibility is to the people who are on waiting lists trying to get into hospitals in their communities and are being told they are going to have to wait even longer.

An emergency debate on health is most necessary today and certainly most appropriate.

The jokes and the quips directed at members of this Legislature by certain members of the government during their questioning on health matters this afternoon were arrogant and indicative of their lack of concern for patients who are urgently ill and who are waiting 120 days for admission to hospital. Their own physicians recommend no longer than two weeks' waiting time. That is 14 days, not 120 days.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: Things are worse than we thought.

Mrs. Cunningham: I wrote this speech as I was listening to the opposition. It is the best speech today, certainly much better than that of the Treasurer. I have not heard him say important things at all, but we are waiting.

Mr. Reycraft: He hasn't spoken yet.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Mrs. Cunningham: "Well-funded, well-managed, well-planned health care systems" were the words that the Minister of Health used today. We surely hope so, but we do not agree and neither do the hospitals. The minister today quoted from 1980 speeches, from 1982 speeches, etc. To use those speeches today, in these times, is, to say the least, out of the context of today's health care crisis. To quote from eight years ago when we have moved so rapidly into the future, into technology, into procedures that are supposed to be available to patients is, to say the least, silly. That is not a compliment.

The minister talks about well-managed hospitals, and for the most part I do agree. Hospitals are basically well managed, and inexperienced, uninformed opinions should not be that hospitals with deficits are not well managed. In fact, hospitals with deficits, as the minister's reviews have pointed out, are well managed. I am certain the Treasurer, with his deficit, would agree that there are other institutions that are well managed although they are running with a deficit.

The Minister of Health requested audits of 22 hospitals in Ontario recently. Hospitals in London, as well as all the hospitals affected, are aware of the first results of those audits. In cases where the audit found that the hospital deficit was not the result of poor management, why have the government of Ontario and the minister not agreed to cover the deficit? It does not make sense. The minister requests an audit and then ignores the results of it. One that I am aware of not only approved the deficit, but also recommended that the hospital spend \$3.5 million more—very confusing to hospital boards.

Not only does this not make sense, but it is also a slap in the face to all those hospitals that have made a responsible commitment to deliver quality care under serious financial funding constraints. Not only has the government shafted the hospitals by this affront; it has ignored the most obvious and critical findings of the audits. Base funding for hospitals is not enough.

Let us turn for a moment to process. I want to talk about fairness for a moment. In December 1987 the Minister of Health asked for the audit of 22 hospitals. She now has the results of the first part of that audit, which dealt with the deficits and management of the hospitals. She told the House repeatedly that she needed to wait for the second half of the audit before deciding the future of hospital deficits. Prior to that, her colleague the Treasurer had already announced that no hospital deficit could be covered. I have no idea

why, in the first place, he was making such a statement instead of the Minister of Health and, in the second place, why he would make it at a chamber of commerce gathering no less.

Now the minister has announced that she will help one of the hospitals, St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins. Cambridge Memorial Hospital would like the same consideration. I thought she had to wait for the results of the second half of her audit. Process is obviously not applied fairly. It is inconsistent and, again I underline, unfair.

In my home town of London, also the Premier's (Mr. Peterson) home town, we have hospitals that are very well managed, but they are underfunded and need help with their deficits. I am concerned to think what the minister plans to do with London hospitals. We in London expect fair treatment. The precedent is set. They were responsible and we expect the same kind of responsible decision-making for London hospitals as well.

1610

What hospitals would like, as they attempt to manage in these wonderful economic times for everyone else, is the ability to plan without irresponsible surprises from this government. Changing the rules in the middle of the game is not acceptable for team players. The minister has changed the rules in the middle of the budget deliberations and in the middle of budget planning by hospitals. She is making it impossible for hospitals to plan in a responsible way.

Not funding projected deficits of well-managed hospitals is not fair. It is irresponsible. Freezing leaseback arrangements is equally deplorable. I have been advised by a hospital administrator today that he would really like to plan for equipment on a three-to-five-year cycle. That seems impossible with this government. Year-to-year planning is hardly possible given the policies of this government.

These are bread-and-butter issues. Equipment such as X-ray machines, operating-room equipment, transplant equipment, computerized axial tomography scanners, and MRIs—magnetic resonance imagery equipment—is basic bread-and-butter technology as well as the, in quotes, "new technology" that the Premier is encouraging and supposedly the government is supporting.

Everything we say in one arena, we do not support in another. That means in the political arena during election time, as we make public speeches, as we try to win people over. Then the people who are doing the day-to-day work with patients are very much dissatisfied and con-

cerned. They hear the promises and nothing happens.

Leaseback arrangements are innovative, responsible ways of providing technology to hospitals. I heard the minister talk about innovative ways of funding. We sometimes do not like all the innovative ways of funding, basically because we do not understand them, but if we took the opportunity and asked the questions and spent time with some of the hospital administrators and accountants, we would find out that it is not all that bad and that it has been going on for years. Why has it taken people so long to be so critical? Again, in the middle of the game, change the rules.

The minister, as I stated, encourages innovative funding in the House and freezes the same innovative procedures out of the House. The public is not listening to the numbers game and the rhetoric of this government. People are paying more; they are getting less. There are ways for this government to manage the health care system more effectively. Not funding hospitals that are operating efficiently, not supporting hospital boards—volunteers, I might add—that are looking for efficient, innovative ways to fund health care in their hospitals, is the wrong way to treat the public.

Mr. Pollock: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: I do not believe we have a quorum.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells rung.

1615

The Acting Speaker: A quorum is now present. Would the member for London North wish to proceed?

Mrs. Cunningham: Not funding hospitals that are operating efficiently and not supporting hospital boards that are looking for more efficient, innovative ways to fund health care in their hospitals is the wrong way to treat the public, especially those who are urgently ill and waiting for admission to hospital.

The government has no hospital accessibility policies in place for this province. It has not determined how hospitals should be fairly financed. The public is losing confidence in this government, especially as it relates to its nonpolicies in the operation of hospitals.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I appreciate the fact that in his remarks the Leader of the Opposition mentioned budget paper D, which in my view is important in the exercise of reviewing health care. The fact that it has not had much publicity does not hurt my feelings. It does not draw any great conclusion; it simply sets out the facts of

how the costs of health care have grown in the last few years.

As a matter of fact, the thing that concerns me substantially is that in 10 years the health budget in Ontario has grown from 27 per cent of the global budget to 33 per cent of the global budget. No one can question for a moment its importance. I think, however, it is worth saying that if we were to add up the costs of our education budget provincially, considering that it is about 45 per cent of the total amount paid for education, and add to it the amount for colleges and universities, we are not far off an amount that is roughly equivalent to health care.

It would bother me if, in this budget, we were spending substantially less on education in this province than on health. It is less, but the two are very close in amount, and I think that is appropriate. But in the last 10 years the health budget has grown an average of over 12 per cent a year.

The Ontario health insurance plan part of the health budget—that is, the part that goes to pay practitioners and certain other aspects, but mainly the pay for doctors—has grown in that period of time from 24 per cent of the total to 32 per cent, a very significant growth indeed and one we should all be aware of. In 10 years, the hospital portion has gone from 52 per cent of the global health budget down to 44 per cent. Other than the numbers themselves, there is no way I can make that any clearer, other than to indicate to the honourable members something they already know, and that is, the share that goes to pay the professionals in the system is growing and the part that is going to the hospitals is contracting.

Just in case anyone would fall prey to the oversimplification of the Leader of the Opposition when he talked about contracting health budgets, of course that is totally and patently ridiculous and wrong. The budgets to the hospitals are uniformly growing and this year I have allocated an additional \$1.12 billion to the health care budget. Even the increase in revenues, partly based on tax increases which are very large, but much more than that, based on the increase in the economy of the province, will bring us in \$3 billion extra this year. Of that, fully 40 per cent is assigned to health care. Anyone who is under the impression that not enough dollars, either formerly or in the new budget, are assigned to health care is wrong, and I believe such a suggestion is unreasonable and misleading.

I want to say that even for hospitals alone this year, and that is the subject of this special debate, the increase in transfers will be over 10 per cent. We have to be aware that the government's announcement of an \$850-million capital expansion from two years ago still applies, and that \$850 million is being applied, on a phased basis over three to five years, in a program the minister and her colleagues announce from time to time.

The point that has been made by the Leader of the Opposition, however, is one I want to reinforce, and that is the growing percentage of the health budget applied to our OHIP responsibilities outside hospitals. The average increase in payments being made to doctors over the last decade has been just under 14 per cent a year, but this has in some degree escalated. Since 1982, I believe, the average is a 15.5 per cent increase per year.

1620

I draw the honourable members' attention to a table on page 77 of the budget statement, budget paper D, which shows the percentage change in the allocations to physicians' services. In 1981-82, these grew by just about 17 per cent in that year. They gradually decreased until 1984-85, the first year the Liberal government took office. The increase was 7.8 per cent, and in 1985-86, 7.8 per cent. In this past year, 1986-87, there was quite a significant jump, 9.5 per cent. This led to a budgetary overrun, payable to doctors for the services they render in response to patients coming to them, of approximately 9.5 per cent. That translates into dollars as about a \$180-million overrun.

This sort of flexibility in the budget was naturally a matter of concern to myself. We certainly do not blame the patients. We do not blame the doctors. There is no blame assignable at this time, other than the facts that the population is ageing, like myself, and that also, and it is often forgotten, that the numbers of doctors are increasing rapidly.

Our own medical schools are turning out some of the best doctors in the world—the best doctors in the world—and we are also a centre for the attraction of immigration from most countries of the world, because this is an extremely attractive place for doctors to carry on their profession. This past year, the increase was just under five per cent at a time when the population as a whole was growing by one per cent.

My honourable friend from Fort Frances is shaking his head. I know what his problem is; of these many doctors who come out of our schools and universities and come here as immigrants,

not all of them share the member's enthusiasm for Fort Frances. I share his enthusiasm.

Mr. Hampton: Or Timmins or Hearst or Hornepayne or Ignace or Red Lake.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The member is speaking from his territory. I speak on a more global basis. Unfortunately, the point I was trying to make has now evaporated, but if anybody is interested, we are getting more doctors than the rate of population growth would require. I am not the one to say that we have too many.

The point that is made and has to be understood is that with the situation involving the budget to pay for doctors' services, which has to be flexible—which is one word to be used, with new medical techniques, new drugs and many other things that are really substantially not within our control—it becomes more essential that the hospitals live up to a budget they set and is approved by the ministry.

The ministry may very well roll them back on certain aspects of their budget, but the ministry does have the central planning authority, and the point my good friend the Minister of Health has made repeatedly is that it is not possible to have a full range of facilities at each hospital.

We wish we could have open-heart surgery in Brantford, but that is not possible and that hospital board has not moved in that direction. We wish we could have a total range of orthopaedic surgery in every hospital, but it is not possible. For that reason, centralized planning is essential in the community of Ontario if we are going to use this vast amount of money and resources in an effective and efficient way.

If there is a villain in this business, and I suppose there is, it has to be the Treasurer, who must have some reasonable budgetary basis in order to have a tax base that we can say is fair and equitable, and to allocate the money on a community basis that is also fair and equitable. If we were to accede to the demands of the official opposition in particular, and allow the hospitals to have an independent control of their budgets and simply to send the Treasury of Ontario the bill, that simply is not practicable and has to be rejected by any thinking citizen and taxpayer, whether or not he is concerned about his local hospital.

I just want to make it clear that no hospital is being cut back. As a matter of fact, the amount of money going to the hospitals has gone up by an average six per cent, and in most instances, by as much as 10 per cent and more.

As Treasurer, I really have had to insist that the hospitals operate on a preset budget so that we in

the Ministry of Health and in the Treasury are going to allocate these dollars on a fair and equitable basis.

We cannot provide the kind of open-ended service the official opposition would like, that in fact I suppose we all would like. But we do make available, on a wide community basis in this whole province, the best hospital and doctor care, in my view, in the world. It is universal. The costs are low. Our practitioners are reasonably satisfied. We are very proud of our accomplishment.

Mr. Wildman: I am happy to participate in this debate. I am glad the government has finally agreed to deal with a major problem we have faced over the last few weeks with regard to hospital funding in this province.

I have listened very carefully to the comments of the Treasurer and his colleague the Minister of Health with regard to their reasoning for the current budgetary approach to hospitals. The Minister of Health seemed to be saying, and her colleague the Treasurer backed her up in the view, that we are calling for an open-ended system. That is not exactly correct.

It is obvious there must be controls on spending. Nobody questions that. The Treasurer, at great length, looked at the increases in the various parts of the health field. He seemed to be saying, basically, that the major problem in the system is the demand on doctors' services and the number of services on a fee-for-service basis that the doctors are providing. If that is the case, I wonder why the minister is not attempting to take some measure to deal with that problem, rather than just dealing with another aspect; that is, the hospitals.

I note the Treasurer is leaving. I hope he will have the opportunity to read Hansard because I am concerned about the approach the Treasurer seems to take. He seems to be saying the doctors are a problem because they are billing for increasingly high numbers of services, the drug plan is a problem, we have all of these problems; but he is only going to deal with one preset budget.

He does not suggest, for instance, that he preset the budget for doctors' billings to the Ontario health insurance plan, but he does suggest that he preset the budgets for hospitals.

I would not be opposed to that if at the same time as the Treasurer was saying there is going to be a 4.4 per cent increase for hospitals in this province and nothing more, he and the Minister of Health were also saying they are going to

substantially increase the funding for things like home care, nursing homes and extended care.

But at the same time as we have the Treasurer saying there will not be any covering of hospital deficits and there is going to be a limit on increases, we have his colleague the Minister of Community and Social Services stating there is no more money for home care.

The Minister of Health referred to the Swedish example and argued that Sweden has a universal health care system that has been the envy of many other countries, many other jurisdictions in the world, and that we have now exceeded in Ontario the expenditures of the Swedes, with approximately the same number of people, the same population.

The thing she did not deal with, though, is that the Swedes are spending on services that cost a lot less than institutional care. You cannot limit the institutional care if the patients in the acute care beds have nowhere else to go. If you have people who are inappropriately using acute care facilities, you have to provide extended care facilities, nursing bed facilities and home care facilities to be able to move them into more appropriate forms of care. But at the same time as we have the limitations on the hospitals, we have the Minister of Community and Social Services saying there is no more money to expand home care services adequately.

1630

The government cannot have it both ways. It has to expand the home care services before it starts saying to patients: "You can't be in this type of care. It's not adequate; it's not appropriate for what you need." But that is exactly what this government is doing. This government is saying: "Too bad. We're not going to increase the funding to the institutional care, but at the same time we're not going to give any extra funding for more appropriate forms of care."

The minister makes a great deal of the need to restructure and realign the health care system. She stood up with a thesaurus the other day and said, "Realign or restructure: there's no synonym that says that means 'cutback.'" Really what she needed, rather than a thesaurus, was a dictionary. She should have looked up the word "euphemism," because that is what "realign" and "restructure" mean. They are a euphemism for cutting back.

If you have a deficit, if you cannot fund the services you already have, and you are told you are not going to have that deficit covered and are not going to get a major increase, you have to cut back.

Mr. Ballinger: Was that before or after the aphrodisiac?

Mr. Wildman: The member for Essex-Kent (Mr. McGuigan) is talking about the drug plan, I believe.

Mr. McGuigan: You've got the wrong member there.

Mr. Wildman: The member for Durham something or other, Durham-York.

At any rate, we have a situation where, in northern Ontario, the minister has said we have to have, as across the province, regional planning. The minister has pointed to the efforts made by her ministry to ensure that services which are needed are provided on a regional basis so that we do not have to provide them in every hospital in every community, because, as she says, there is not a bottomless pit.

I want to look at one regional service: that is, the neonatal intensive-care unit at the General Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. This is not one of the 22 hospitals experiencing chronic deficits; it is not one of the ones under review. It is, however, one of the 90 which have a deficit this year, had a deficit last year and are probably looking at another deficit next year. It is having to cut back because the Treasurer says the government will not cover these deficits.

This NIC unit is a modified level III unit for all of northeastern Ontario. It provides service not just for Sault Ste. Marie but for the whole of the northeast. In the past, in peak periods they have had up to 20 babies in the NIC unit in the General Hospital. Because of the deficit and the need to cut back, the hospital board has decided it is going to limit the number of babies to 12 at any given time.

That obviously means, if there is a demand for more than that, that the mothers are going to have to travel to southern Ontario centres to get the care they need for themselves and their infants. There is nowhere they can go in northern Ontario other than the General Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie.

Actually, they are proposing to cut five beds from the NIC unit at the General Hospital in Sault Ste. Marie. We have already had a couple of occasions where patients—one from Timmins—had to be transferred to Sudbury and then, I believe, to southern Ontario because there was not a bed available in the north anywhere.

It is a very valuable and important service that is provided for all of northeastern Ontario, and this is an example of where the Treasurer's approach is negating the very thing the Minister

of Health says we need: regional planning for services in health care.

The government cannot say to the hospitals, "We're going to cut you across the board; we're not going to cover any deficits, no matter what the reason you got into them," without saying it is going to cut back. It means a cutback. If the government is not going to cover the deficit, then they have to cut somewhere.

The General Hospital is cutting in a number of places, but one of the places it is cutting is the NIC unit. It is not acceptable.

We need to provide restructuring in the health care system. We need to provide more appropriate forms of care. We need to be spending more money in areas other than institutional care. We need to limit the expenditures that we are facing with regard to the drug plan, with regard to billing for the Ontario health insurance plan. We need to do all of these things, but we cannot do them without doing them all in conjunction at once. The government cannot say it is going to limit institutional care funding without providing other types of care. It is not acceptable.

That is what this government is attempting to do, and it is what is producing the crisis that we now face. To accuse the New Democrats of being in favour of open-ended funding is ridiculous. It is even more ridiculous to say that we would support any proposal by either doctors or hospitals for extra billing when our position is quite clear on extra billing and user fees, and has been for many years. It is unacceptable.

The government seems to have lost control of this whole problem. It does not know what to do, so its only answer is to say "realign," "restructure" when it means cut back. It cannot cut back in one area without providing adequate services in another, and that is what it is trying to do.

Mrs. Marland: As I rise to take part today in this emergency debate on the health care system of Ontario, I think it does bear significance to refer to the fact that it is Canada Health Day. But is it not rather a sad day in Ontario that we have to have an emergency debate on the health care in this province? That is how, in this province today, we are celebrating Canada Health Day.

It is an emergency debate. Why? Because some of us in this Legislature recognize that there is no greater emergency that any of us can face than an emergency to do with our health. Is it not interesting, when those of us who are healthy enough to walk into this chamber today and, indeed, healthy enough to walk out of this chamber, are here—some of us—that it is those who are the members of the Liberal Party of

Ontario and serve in the Liberal government caucus who do not see that today there is indeed an emergency with health care?

It is very interesting to listen to the Minister of Health compare our system with the British health care system. As someone who grew up in England at the time the health care system was being nationalized, and having been a constant visitor back there because of family relatives with illnesses and severe problems in terms of health, it is particularly interesting for me to hear a comparison.

No one knows better than I do, at first hand, what the British health care system has become. When I say with reverence, "God save us from that kind of health care system in this province," I cannot mean it more sincerely. In Britain you have to wait two years for major surgery. We are now hearing of examples right here in Ontario where we are talking about anything from nine months to 15 or 18 months for major surgery.

Tragically, our family in Mississauga did have a friend who died while waiting for open-heart surgery. In fact, in this particular case there were so many questions raised about the death of this friend and neighbour, whose name was John Mee, that the local coroner decided there should be a coroner's inquest into his death, because the question of whether he would have been saved had he not had to face a delay waiting for that particular medical procedure was a question that had to be answered.

1640

When we talk about what these hospitals can do, these hospitals that are being forced—in fact, by the Treasurer's own statement, they are actually being forced—into a deficit position, what are their real options? While the Treasurer is blaming the hospitals for their own deficits, in his own budget statement, and I refer to page 9 of the 1988 budget which was presented on April 20, he clearly indicates that the share of health care costs for the "operation of hospitals has declined from 52 per cent to 44 per cent."

How can hospitals that are facing an inflation rate of 5.1 per cent be asked to operate without a deficit when their grants in fact are going to be only 4.4 per cent? We have to look at what it is we are asking these hospitals to do.

While we do that, I think it is important to refer particularly to the Cambridge Memorial Hospital, which is the one that seems to be on the chopping block at the moment. It is being chopped at by the Liberal government, and the two opposition parties are trying to defend it democratically.

I would like to quote from the Woods Gordon report on the Cambridge hospital, where, apart from all the percentages and the figures, it actually talks about the very real reasons, such as the increase of costs of drugs and employee benefits and medical and surgical supplies, those kinds of things, that hospital is in its deficit position. All of us who even shop at a drugstore, for goodness' sake, recognize the increase in costs.

But I think the most important comments in this Woods Gordon report are these. Members should recognize that this is an independent report. This is not a ministerial report; it is not a report by the board itself. It is somebody else from the outside looking inside.

They are saying: "The board is well informed and all their decisions are based on actual, accurate and timely information provided by the administration. The board is dedicated to serving the community and to providing the best possible care at the hospital." Again, I emphasize this is the Cambridge hospital.

Another comment in this report says, "Administration is a highly capable, hardworking and dedicated group. The hospital is well kept and operated." And this is the most important quote of all: "The statistical and financial information available for decision-making is outstanding."

If that Cambridge hospital is outstanding in its record-keeping and its financial information, perhaps the Liberal government will have to explain why it questioned that hospital's operation and why that hospital is in a deficit. It is a very simple calculation. I would suggest that if inflation is at 5.1 per cent and the government gives these hospitals 4.4 per cent, how can they not have deficits?

The answer by this Liberal government would of course be that they would not have deficits if they chose to reduce their services. What else could they do? I guess they could shut down completely and not have to worry about a budget at all.

How do they reduce services? I would like to ask the Liberal members in this House what they are suggesting that hospitals do. Where should hospitals start to reduce their deficits? Where should they start to reduce their services? Maybe they should start with the elderly first, the elderly people who go to hospital because they are ill, perhaps perhaps their lifespan is not as long as that of younger people. Maybe that is where the hospitals should reduce their spending. Maybe that is where the reduction of services should be.

Perhaps if they decide not to start with the elderly, maybe they should start with the most ill. Maybe they think that the least ill patients in a hospital have a better chance of survival, so they will not reduce the services for the least ill, they will reduce the services for the most ill.

The point is that all of this is so utterly unacceptable and it is so utterly stupid for anybody with any kind of mind even to consider. How is it that the Ontario Liberal government is saying to these hospitals, "Cut your deficits"? In fact, it is saying, "Reduce your services."

My questions about the areas in which reductions of services should take place were facetious, because, in fact, there are no areas, realistically, where hospitals can cut their services. By the time my fellow colleagues and I and our families, relatives and neighbours go to a hospital, it is because we are ill; it is not because we "just need medical treatment." It is not like going into a doctor's office. It is because we are at the point where we need the kind of treatment that, in the cases that we are talking about, means our survival.

I would suggest, with respect, that we need not worry about housing the homeless, feeding the hungry and doing anything else if we are not going to save the health of the people who live in this province, because if they are not healthy, they will not be hungry and they will not live long enough to be homeless.

This may sound rather dramatic, but I am concerned about a world-class health system that this province has built with a worldwide reputation, to where people come from all over the world to seek the medical treatment and services that are provided by the physicians in the hospitals in this province, a medical health care system that I stand with great pride to speak of.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Marland: I think it is unfortunate that this system is not—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Nepean.

Mr. Daigeler: Just a comment.

The Acting Speaker: No. No comments are allowed. The member for Mississauga West.

Mr. Mahoney: It is a pleasure to rise on this issue. I do not know how I get so lucky as to always follow my colleague the member for Mississauga South (Mrs. Marland), but I hope she noted that I was a gentleman through that speech and did not heckle too much.

The health care system in Ontario is by far one of the most comprehensive, caring and efficient

health care systems in the world today. It is indeed an honour and a pleasure to debate with my colleagues in this House the effectiveness, efficiency and overall success of this system.

In my riding I am blessed to have two major hospitals. The Mississauga Hospital has just celebrated its 30th anniversary, 30th year in business, and it was formerly known as the South Peel Hospital. The success of that hospital, under the very capable leadership of Merritt Henderson and the entire board, is renowned in Ontario. The Credit Valley Hospital, clearly the state-of-the-art hospital in this province, provides much-needed help to Mississauga Hospital to deliver a first-class health care system to our community and our citizens.

Just last month, I had the privilege of announcing the approval of the computerized axial tomography scanner for the Credit Valley Hospital, a clear signal from the Ministry of Health, this minister and this government that we are truly committed to a fully modern health care system in Ontario. We now have the finest equipment available in both major hospitals in my city.

Interjection.

Mr. Mahoney: I have got the honourable member over here heckling from the sidelines, but I will just keep rolling right along and hopefully ignore him.

We have the finest equipment available in both major hospitals in my city, and former governments refused to approve these items. In fact, the former Tory government refused to recognize that a basic, necessary and modern facility such as a CAT scanner was and is not a frill.

Mrs. Marland: Which government built the Credit Valley Hospital?

Mr. Mahoney: It is as much a necessary medical diagnostic tool today, the member for Mississauga South will know, as an ordinary X-ray machine.

As in many other areas in this province, such as education and roads, this government has had to make up for decades of neglect, decades of underfunding and, frankly, decades of a lack of sensitivity and understanding in the health care industry.

The motion we are debating today deals in part with a new system of health care delivery in this province, to relieve pressure on existing facilities. Clearly, in my opinion, the future of health care lies in improving on the delivery system, but it also lies in changing attitudes of the public.

The people who work in our hospitals will tell members that our health care system is being

abused. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition, if he were here—and he has been propagating a motherhood and apple pie approach to health care—must recognize that when every scratch and bump winds up in a multimillion-dollar emergency department at a multimillion-dollar facility, then costs can and do get out of hand.

The opposition plays the game of maximize and minimize. Just as they tried to play that same game with public auto insurance, they are attacking our fine health care system. They stomp their feet and they yell “More, more, more” and when this government responds with more, they change their negative course and they cry wolf. We all know what happens when you cry wolf too often. People do not listen.

1650

Mr. Hampton: Did you write that for him, Ballinger?

Mr. Mahoney: No, I wrote it myself.

The people of Ontario know about this government's commitment to our hospitals. They also know our commitment to fiscal responsibility. As the minister has said, we are talking about a well-planned, well-managed hospital system showing fiscal responsibility as well as a commitment to modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

I would like to talk about community health delivery. There exists in place now a method of taking health care to the people instead of continuing to encourage them to come to emergency departments. It is there now and the honourable members opposite, if they had done their homework instead of carping and harping on the issue, would know it is there. It is there through regional health departments, community health nurses, medical officers of health, a system to educate the public on personal health care. It is through these health professionals that we will ultimately reduce the dependency on emergency departments in our province.

In Sault Ste. Marie, my home town, the community health centre is a model for delivery of health care.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You are driving us all out.

Mr. Mahoney: I am driving them all out. That is good. They can go listen in their offices and they can put it on mute. I will carry on.

The community health centre in Sault Ste. Marie is a model for delivery for health care in the community, and this facility was not built by government. It was truly built by the community, and millions and millions of dollars are raised every year in the community to help build

facilities because the people know you cannot pour money into a black hole. The people know that the left-wing, socialist approach is a road to ruin. They also know that the right-wing, Gunga Din tendencies are dangerous.

They also know that health care delivery is a matter of co-operation among local governments, hospital boards, the doctors, nurses and other health professionals as well as this government and the general public. It is truly a partnership that requires understanding. Because of past neglect, it also requires some new approaches.

Our health care system eats up over 40 per cent of our budget. The Treasurer, in an effort to instil fiscal responsibility in every sector of society, has taken a tough stand. The buck stops here and it is up to this government to reform. It is up to us to lead the way and to correct not only the effects of underfunding, but the general laissez-faire attitude of former Tory regimes.

Just as in other programs such as housing and education, our health system has to respond to changing demographics, and particularly the special needs groups. Our population is ageing, which members can see right before their very eyes if they just look around this room.

We just had a member who was coming up fall on the floor, but other than that, my speech was going fine. Our population is ageing and the gentleman is having trouble walking.

The challenged members of our society, and we are all challenged in one way or another, require special attention and they are getting it through nonhospital facilities such as Erinoak, formerly called the Credit Valley Treatment Centre for Children, in my community, and other special-needs communities.

As members know, to be able to continue to provide first-class health care in this province, a review of the fiscal responsibilities of a number of hospitals has been undertaken. It is hoped that the increased scrutiny of rising health care costs—and I quote from budget paper D, entitled Ontario Expenditure Profiles—“will increase public participation in choices concerning the future design of health programs and services for Ontarians.”

That same budget paper identifies that during the period from 1978 to 1988, health care expenditures have risen from \$3.7 billion to approximately \$11.5 billion, in a period when our population has increased by almost one million, when our demographics and our expectations have changed drastically.

In my recent householder mailing, I sent out a pull-out section for my constituents to comment on many government programs. While many of the answers are being compiled on the computer, the one message that came through loud and clear, clearly the number one issue on people's minds, was “Reduce the deficit.”

This has been done by this Treasurer with the lowest deficit in 19 years. He is simply carrying that fiscally responsible attitude to every sector, and the health care sector is not immune. That is not to say that our hospitals are acting in an irresponsible way, but it is important to send a message, clearly, to every organization spending public money and delivering public service that the name of the game today is fiscal responsibility; better, more efficient delivery systems and a clear direction from this government.

That direction is there from our Treasurer and our Minister of Health. The Leader of the Opposition has said today, and I quote: “Working people of this province know two things: one, their taxes have been increased; and two, their services have been reduced.”

They also know very clearly one thing for sure. They know there is no free lunch and the rhetoric that we heard is nothing more than that. They know that this government provides a wonderful health care system, and when people travel out of this country we always hear them when they return home and say how great it is to live in this country and this province. One of the things that they always talk about, especially when they come back from free trade heaven, is our health care system.

They talk about it in terms of confidence and in terms of appreciation, and understanding that it costs a lot of money to provide this system. Most people understand reality. Most people understand that there is no free lunch and most people understand that fiscal responsibility must go hand in glove with the finest health care system in the world today.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: After listening to the last member speak, I think it is fair to say that most people do appreciate the health care system that we have in this province but most people also know about the waiting lists that are developing in this province. If you need cardiac surgery, if you need orthopaedic surgery, those folks may not agree with the member that the health care system is that great in Ontario.

It is not particularly great to have to be off work for a couple of years waiting to have orthopaedic surgery. It is not particularly great, when you are waiting for cardiac surgery, to have

ongoing angina pain and be in and out of hospital, not knowing whether you are going to be able to get your surgery before, in fact, you have another heart attack and perhaps die from the other heart attack.

It is not particularly great for one young man in Windsor who contacted me several months ago. He first went on the waiting list when he was 18 years old. Mark Durocher is his name and he needed to have open-heart surgery done in London. He was on the waiting list for two years. The only way that he got in for that surgery was, after inquiries were made by my office, the local newspaper decided to take up Mark's cause.

All of a sudden, four hours before the paper was going to print, the hospital notified the family that Mark was, in fact, going to be scheduled for surgery and, thank God, his surgery has now been carried out. It was successful, but for two years he could not go to school. He could not work. He could not plan the rest of his life because he was waiting for this world-class health care system to respond to his very critical situation.

Since this government has come to power, there have been three major initiatives in the health care field. There was Bill 94, part of the accord, where we forced the government to ban extra billing in this province, and that was a very significant move by this Legislature and something that my party was very proud of. Bills 54 and 55 were some reforms in the drug delivery system in this province with the Ontario drug benefit plan; and some regulation, as well, to do with cash-paying customers for drugs. There was absolutely nothing in the drug reform area that does anything about the amounts of drugs that are being used in this province, the double doctoring, the extra prescriptions or the overdrugging of the elderly of this province. That issue was not addressed at all.

I can tell you, Madam Speaker, from going through the hearings on those bills, it is not because the Ministry of Health and its professionals do not understand the problem. It is because we do not have a minister and a government that has enough guts to take the issue on and to deal with the bottom-line problem. We know the problem. Talk to assistant deputy minister Dennis Psutka. He testified in front of the committee. We spent two months on that committee. We had people coming before us with bags full of drugs that had been accumulated at their homes. We had all sorts of evidence that was prepared. Dr. Psutka spelled it out. He has made recommendations to this government and

to the former government, but not a damned thing has been done.

1700

We do not need another task force to study the overuse of drugs in this province. We need a minister who is willing to take it on, to take on the pharmacists and take on the drug companies and try to deal with the problem; but that has not happened.

We had some nursing home reform. Again, there has been absolutely nothing done after that legislation was passed to really reform the nursing home system and the system of care for our elderly in this province. We still rely on institutions almost exclusively for the elderly who need assistance in this province. We still rely on private for-profit nursing homes that are making money.

If we do not have enough money in our health care system, why are we giving money away for the for-profit system in the nursing home sector? Why should that money not be ploughed back into care and into the system for care of our elderly in this province? The amount of money that nursing homes are making in this province could go back into home care. We could provide more home care programs.

We have not done that. We have not extended the home care programs in this province. The integrated homemaker program is still in pilot projects. We do not have that across the province. We have that in something like 20 communities. Metropolitan Toronto is not covered. My home community is not covered.

If this government were serious about community-based alternatives to institutions, which would in fact alleviate some of the difficulties in our institutions and in our hospitals across this province, then the one thing it would look at is extending the program across the province and paying the people that work in the integrated homemaker program a decent living wage comparable to that in the institutions, so that we clearly would send the message out that home-based programs and community-based programs are as important or more important than the institutional programs across this province.

But nothing has been done. We still have about 20 per cent of our active treatment beds in this province being inappropriately occupied. We do not need more hospital beds in this province. We are not saying we do. What we need to do is ensure that the ones that are being inappropriately used are properly used.

That means that for the 20 per cent that are being used by people who are waiting for home placements with home support programs, in proper nursing homes or in other alternatives, those programs have to be put in place. Those 20 per cent of beds can be freed up and people who need to get into hospital will have the proper access. But that has not occurred.

It boggles my mind to hear the Treasurer, to hear the minister, to hear the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) just a few minutes ago say, "We have three basic areas where we are spending lots of money: we have the drug program, we have the institutional program, we have doctors."

"We cannot do anything about the doctors," says the government. "We cannot do anything about the drug program, so we will pick on the hospitals."

That is absolute silliness. Half a billion dollars was the cost overrun on doctors last fiscal year. What did we do when we passed Bill 94 in this province? We got our \$52 million or \$53 million back from the federal government because we had stopped extra billing and the next day they wrote a cheque to the doctors and gave all the money to the doctors.

Absolute silliness, absolutely poor planning and the wrong message to the doctors of the province. They wanted to buy peace and they bought peace with a \$50-million-plus cash settlement, with increases in the fee schedule that have given money away to the doctors and have limited our options for change in the health care system across this province.

If we want to get serious about changing our health care system, we have to start looking at some fundamental changes. No one would get an argument from me, even though it is very unpopular, to start talking about hospital amalgamations. In my community we have four hospitals. It is absolutely silly in my view to have four hospital boards, four hospital administrators, four computers and all the other duplication that exists. There is absolutely no reason there should be four hospital boards and all that duplication in a community like mine.

We could save millions of dollars by looking at some rationalization in terms of the administration of some of these hospitals. We could save millions of dollars by having more accountability by the hospital boards to the community. It seems to me that if we are able to have one hospital board in a community like mine, we could even take a look at things like direct elections to hospital boards.

Those types of things would save money. The only area where that has occurred to a significant degree in Ontario is with the amalgamation of Toronto Western Hospital and Toronto General Hospital. It really did surprise me when the representatives from the administration of those hospitals came before a committee in the last parliament and told us the kinds of money they save by buying on a bulk basis for the two hospitals, by eliminating some of the duplications and by rationalization. They are able to plow back into service in those two hospitals literally millions of dollars now under the Toronto Hospital corporation.

Mr. Reycraft: Could have contracted out some of those services.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: There were certainly some problems that we raised during the committee hearings on those bills, and the government decided that it was not appropriate to have extensive public hearings and extensive consultations with the unions. If you are going to amalgamate hospitals, it has to be done properly, and there has to be consultation and involvement with the people who work in the facilities.

If we think we have a problem in our health care system in Ontario today, and I do—and I think the measure of that problem is not whether the government House leader believes there is a crisis or an emergency; it is a matter of what the folks out there think, and the folks out there think there is a problem and the crisis is building—if this government does not take the bull by the horns and start dealing with the problems in our health care system, the emergency and the crisis that we have today, in 1988, will look minimal compared to what we are going to have. The crisis is coming, the costs are escalating, and I beg the government to act before this system collapses.

Mr. Sterling: I would like to talk today a little bit about this government's record with regard to health care, particularly with regard to the Ottawa-Carleton area. The Ottawa-Carleton area is unique in a lot of ways, because in the past we have provided a number of health care services for our friends in Quebec, and some changes in Quebec have altered the situations with regard to some of our hospitals in the Ottawa-Carleton area.

Before I do that, Madam Speaker, as a member from an area that is involved in the production of tobacco, you may know of my long-standing fight with this government—and I see the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) at your side at this time—to do something with regard to

the whole habit of smoking and the addiction to nicotine.

I guess when you look at a problem dealing with financing of hospitals and you get a government which says it is going to enter into some preventive health care measures, this government has shown such a sorry record in terms of preventive health care that it can only expect a crisis in its hospitals.

It has not done anything with regard to the number one preventive health care measure that it could deal with in this province. As far back as 1975, the World Health Organization said the best thing any industrialized country can do is attack the problem of the addiction to nicotine.

This government has done nothing over the last three years in terms of that, in spite of the fact that statistics have shown that the addiction to nicotine is rising, among our young people in particular. It has risen from about 31 per cent to about 37 per cent. I think it is absolutely two-faced for this government to talk about health care and the wonderful health care system that it has and not be concerned about what is causing that increase in tobacco use. It is illustrated by the fact that today 35 people will die prematurely by about seven and a half years if they have been addicted to tobacco.

1710

That will happen tomorrow and that will happen the day after and that will happen as each day passes, unless this government finally takes the bull by the horns and does something with regard to the addiction to nicotine.

But we have a government which has done nothing in that regard. The *Globe and Mail* has said the Premier is in the pocket of the tobacco industry. We know that is true. He has been bought off by them. The Premier does not care about the general health of our people. That is the conclusion you have to come to.

We have a federal government that has brought forward strict advertising and labelling legislation and has taken leadership in terms of dealing with smoking in the federal workplace. This government has done nothing. They have not done anything. Again, the statistics are so overwhelming in terms of this particular ill health-causing problem that it defies logic that a government would not look at it and do something to stop it.

Our hospitals are being filled with people. I talked to an anaesthetist who works at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, which is the largest hospital in Ontario. She works basically in the Heart Institute, dealing with people who have bypasses

in that institute. Her guess is that 90 to 95 per cent of those people are smokers. I guess it is one of the things that continues on and on. I think each of those heart bypass operations costs in excess of \$20,000 or \$25,000 for the taxpayers out there to provide that service, if one can get that service. Many have to wait a long time now and it seems to be getting longer as the days go by.

Not only is this government not trying to manage the money it is providing for the health care system—it just seems to write out a cheque and does not know where it is going—but it is making no positive efforts to cut down on the number of people who require those services.

I want to talk specifically about one hospital in Ottawa-Carleton that is near and dear to my heart because I had to take my son there one year ago. He suffered an accident in a hockey game and his spleen ruptured. If I had not taken him to hospital, he would have died within an hour after the accident. I took him to the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa and the chief surgeon there, Dr. Liberty, had a chance to talk to me on a personal basis on a number of occasions as we visited back and forth at the hospital. So I have very much a special interest in the Riverside Hospital.

The Riverside Hospital has in the past been exemplary in terms of running its own ship. They had never projected or had a deficit until the 1987-88 year. This hospital was one of the hospitals reviewed under the ministry's deficit review plan. They welcomed the review, as did the Perley Hospital in Ottawa—it was quite willing—and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario. All three institutions wanted the review to take place so they could justify their operations.

But what has happened in the Riverside Hospital's case? This is by Touche Ross, the consultants that were involved in it. The summary of this was that the major increases in costs were caused by uncontrollable factors.

There were two chief factors. One was the loss of patients from the province of Quebec. The Riverside Hospital used to provide a great number of patients from Quebec with health care services. The remuneration for those services—and this was true of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario as well—was greater than the remuneration they would have received if that particular patient was an Ontario resident.

The Riverside Hospital, in essence, was making money from the servicing of the Quebec patients. When the Gatineau hospital came on stream, more and more Quebec residents went to their own hospital in Gatineau, which is

quite understandable. An uncontrollable situation arose whereby their revenues from those particular patients dropped off. That is one of the reasons for the fact that they are operating with a deficit; their first deficit as I mentioned before.

I guess the other reason is that the average stay for a patient in the Riverside Hospital has become longer. Again, you cannot get rid of a patient who is old, chronic and has a serious health ailment. The problem is that in the Ottawa-Carleton area, we do not have enough chronic care beds, so the active hospitals like Riverside have to fill up their active care beds with chronic care patients. The way the economics work out is that the hospital is not providing as many services to those chronic care bed users and therefore does not receive the same kind of revenue as it would if they were acute care patients.

The Riverside Hospital has been operating at about 93 per cent of its capacity. This is an extremely heavy use of all the facilities in that particular institution. I only wish this government would look at it, manage their particular—

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member for Durham-York.

Mr. Ballinger: As the member for Durham-York, I am pleased to participate in this emergency debate on health care for Ontario. I want to take this opportunity to publicly disagree with the opposition member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) on this issue. In fact, I find myself in opposition to the member for Riverdale on almost every issue that is discussed in this House.

I would like to say that as a back-bencher in this government, I appreciate this opportunity to speak. With the number of members on this side of the House, it is very difficult to have an opportunity to speak, so I would like to thank the member for Riverdale for giving me the opportunity to rise.

Let me begin by saying how proud I am of our government's commitment to health care in this province. Ontario now spends 8.5 per cent of the gross provincial product on health care. This amounts to over \$1 million an hour each and every day of the year and places Ontario first in the world, hardly a frivolous attempt to serve the people of the province with the very best.

Residents of Ontario expect and are willing to pay for an effective and efficient health care system. However we are a province of unlimited potential, we are not a province of unlimited resources. We cannot continue to expect that health care can consume such a large piece of our provincial Treasury, especially when one con-

siders all the other competing needs for government funding.

The future does not look any rosier: growing numbers of elderly requiring more sophisticated and constant attention, new advances in technology and clinical procedures and the growing utilization of health care services. The question on most people's minds is, how long can our health care system continue to absorb these rapidly increasing costs without the government taking fiscal action?

The answer is that things are going to have to change if we are going to maintain the quality and accessibility of all the health care services in the province. That is why the Minister of Health is setting the course she is.

1720

In December of last year, the Minister of Health announced the hospital operational review focusing on the 22 hospitals that have incurred repeated deficits. The minister was only doing what should have been done some time ago. She was simply requesting those 22 hospitals to be more accountable for their actions.

This morning, the member for Durham Centre (Mr. Furlong) and I had the opportunity to meet with a newly formed body of health care specialists in the Oshawa General Hospital. This group was made up of the hospital administrators and the board chairmen of five of Durham region's hospitals: the Oshawa General Hospital, the Whitby General Hospital, the Ajax and Pickering General Hospital, the Port Perry Community Memorial Hospital and the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital. It was really interesting to sit around that table this morning and listen to all of those people discuss what is happening with hospitals in Ontario.

If one thing came out loud and clear this morning, it was the fact that this government has recognized the need for all of us to fiscally look at what we are doing in health care. These hospitals have set up for the first time organizations where only the chairmen and the administrators from these five hospitals meet to discuss mutual concerns as they relate to their hospitals. Three of those five hospitals are operating at a deficit.

The consensus this morning and the gist of the conversation was, "What can we do as a fiscally responsible body of people to get a handle on the expenditures in the hospital?" and, "How can our local members of provincial parliament contribute with us and work with us in making sure that we are providing the excellent care we have been furnishing to the people of Durham region as well

as keeping the politicians involved on a day-to-day basis?"

I found that exercise, quite honestly, to be very fruitful, especially from the point of view of being a new member here in the Legislature. Because I have only been here since September, and considering the wide range of issues that we have dealt with, it really is a very unique opportunity for me to learn and understand precisely what we are doing.

I really do believe the Minister of Health has set the proper course. Most of the hospitals now among themselves and among their board members are discussing the position this government has taken when it comes to hospital funding and the deficits. I guess I live in a very unique situation because my riding is split between two regions, both very fast moving, York region and Durham region.

One of the interesting things that came out from the York side of my riding last fall was the York County Hospital wanted to purchase a new CAT scan. Now, they did not run to the government for permission and they did not run to us to ask for money. What they did was set up a special committee called the CAT scan committee, for raising funds. Since the fall of last year, that hospital raised \$1.7 million for a new CAT scan that is up and functioning in the hospital. Not five cents of that money came from the provincial government.

One of the things many hospitals out there should be doing is taking a page out of that book, looking to their community for resource people, volunteers who have the ability and have the interest in their hospital to go out and raise money on such worthwhile projects. This project was really unique because it covered the whole broad spectrum of the community, right from the little kids who were selling cookies or apples to the high school students who ran car washes, to Whipper Watson, who was the chairman, who put together a very effective team and initiated the telethon that ran one entire weekend when pledges came in.

The point here is that particular hospital set an example that I believe other hospitals in Ontario could follow. If we really want to be fiscally responsible and if we need things for our hospital that maybe we cannot get from the provincial government, just maybe we should take our own initiative and do that.

York region just recently has decided to set up a district health council as well. It is something that has been a long time coming in that particular part of the region. The member for York North

(Mr. Beer) and I have had many discussions. My riding is split between Durham and York and I have had the opportunity to watch the Durham District Health Council function over the last seven or eight years, watch how effective it has been in terms of long-term planning and policy, and watch the interaction with the local hospitals and with the Ministry of Health to ensure that the type of health care that is being conducted in Durham is one that suits the needs of the majority of the people who live there.

In the case of York, hopefully within a very short period of time, the York region district health council will come into effect and we will have a good cross-section of all kinds of people who represent all walks of life within York who will establish this committee and help to advise the hospitals.

There are three hospitals in York region that, because it is high growth, are struggling with the issue of deficit funding. Because of the position our Treasurer has taken and because of the position our minister has taken, I think it is a very worthwhile exercise for these particular hospitals to start the process of innovation.

Between both sides of my riding, which is very fast-growing, I find myself in the very unique position of having to discuss on a regular basis what our government is doing and how we are supporting these various projects, where a lot of these particular organizations feel there is a shortfall on behalf of the government.

A lot of members here have spoken today about fiscal responsibility. If I have learned anything since I have been here, it is that the people out there want the services of the government, but they also expect us to show some responsibility.

The main reason for the budget—the “budget grab” as the opposition members call it—was to try and compensate for the many, many years of underfunding and the rapid growth central Ontario is experiencing. Again, my riding is split between both Durham and York, and as the member I am very much aware that all my communities are suffering from that as well.

I have appreciated the opportunity to speak here today and I want to thank the member for Riverdale for giving me the opportunity.

Mr. Philip: When we look at the debates in question period in the House during the last few days, or indeed during the last few weeks, we see that there is fairly evidently a breakdown in communications and consultation between the Minister of Health, the hospitals and the people who are working at the grass-roots level.

On any given day, there is an average of 80 patients in the Etobicoke General Hospital who should be more appropriately placed in extended care, chronic care, rehabilitation facilities, and to a lesser extent long-term psychiatric facilities. It is not uncommon for people waiting for chronic psychiatric facilities at the Etobicoke General to wait for two years. The waiting period for extended care facilities is about nine months and for chronic care facilities it is about two years.

While in 1982-83 there were 12,486 patient-days of waiting for other facilities, this has now risen in 1987-88 to 25,441 days. In other words, 25,441 days have been taken from active treatment placement for the use of chronic care and extended care patients.

The average number of patients waiting for placement in these facilities has risen from 40 in March 1983 to 78 in March 1988. The annual average has changed from 34 waiting placement in 1982-83 to 70 in 1987-88. There is one patient who has been waiting for two and a half years for placement in an extended care facility and three patients at the Etobicoke General who have been waiting in excess of two years.

The government can talk about fiscal responsibility, but in not providing the adequate, less expensive spaces where people can be given care more appropriate to their needs, it in fact is wasting tax dollars rather than saving them.

I want to talk about the communications process because I think it shows exactly where that has broken down with this government and the providers of health care services. When one considers that there is a high mortality rate of patients in the groups that are waiting placement, particularly in extended care, one realizes that the average for people who get placed is much higher than the average based on days alone.

1730

In 1985-86, there were 1,599 patients who had to stay at least one night in the emergency wards on stretchers, waiting for placement in a ward. In 1987-88, these figures rose to 3,186 persons at the Etobicoke General Hospital. On any given day, there were nine patients waiting in the emergency wards of the Etobicoke General overnight for one or more nights, as compared to four as an average in 1985-86. While nine is the average for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1988, the average for the month of March was 17.

In the summer of 1986 the government promised 560 chronic care beds for Metro. The hospitals in the west Metro area submitted a joint submission for a 300-bed facility as a regional

geriatric facility serving the northwest corner of Metro. The condition that the government considered for such a submission was that each individual hospital had to cancel its local submission. The hospitals did this and the following hospitals made a joint submission: Etobicoke General, York-Finch General Hospital, Humber Memorial Hospital, Northwestern General Hospital and West Park Hospital.

Individual and joint submissions were made by the hospitals in other parts of Metro, but we combined and met the requirement of the government. The government allocated beds to the central-north of Metro, to Metro east and to the southern part of Metro and totally ignored the northwest part of Metro.

When one considers that the northwest part of Metro has more Liberal MPPs than any other part of Metro, one can only suppose that the government is obviously taking those ridings for granted. Indeed, when one considers that there is not one Liberal west-end Metro member who has spoken in this debate, one has to say that those Liberal members are taking their constituents for granted.

We now have the absurd situation that senior citizens living in Rexdale are being forced to visit their spouses in Scarborough, at the Runnymede Hospital facility or even as far away as Greenacres Home for the Aged. Many of these people are not able to drive their own cars and they must rely on relatives or on the good works of volunteers, such as the Caring Etobicoke group, to take them to visit their husbands and wives.

The Etobicoke General has made an application for a 36-bed extension of active treatment beds, and this will probably be the lowest cost of any bed facility in the province since the facilities are already available on the 10th floor and therefore there would be very little capital expenditure required.

The administration at the Etobicoke General admits that there has been, more recently, a larger staff turnover in the emergency ward of the hospital, and it is simply caused by stress and burn-out of the people who are serving there, such as the nurses.

Only recently a nurse who had served for 12 years in the emergency ward of the Etobicoke General and another who had served 15 years simply had to leave because of what they considered to be a burn-out. This has required additional cost in terms of professional development as new, inexperienced nurses—inexperienced to the emergency ward—must be trained and indeed conditioned to the new kind of

surroundings that they face in an emergency ward of a hospital as distinct from other types of nursing.

Whereas in the past the hospital was able to use revenue generated through parking and from our medical building for the replacement of equipment and upgrading of equipment, under the business-oriented new development program all this revenue must be pooled in with the revenue obtained directly from the Ministry of Health. The bottom line is that the Ministry of Health is actually contributing less now than in 1981-82, when 85 per cent of our revenue at the Etobicoke General Hospital came from the Ministry of Health. This has dropped to 81 per cent in 1987-88, or a decrease of \$2,000,174.

Not so long ago, I toured the Etobicoke General Hospital ward by ward and spoke to the staff and patients. I spoke to the relatives of patients who felt that it was just impossible for their loved one who had suffered from a stroke or from some other illness which incapacitated them, to get the kind of support they needed, because of the overwork of the staff at the Etobicoke General Hospital; and indeed because, as an active treatment hospital, it is not equipped with the kind of chairs, washing facilities and other things like that which chronic care and extended care facilities are provided with.

We have a situation where the people who really could receive less expensive but better, more appropriate care, are not receiving that and instead are occupying active treatment beds in hospitals. You have the situation where nurses are spending a great amount of time feeding patients, time that is taken away from patients who require active treatment and who are in there for shorter terms.

So both suffer. The taxpayer suffers because an inappropriate, more expensive form of facility is being provided for about 80 patients on any given day. The people who should be in those extended care or chronic care facilities are suffering, because the facility of an active treatment hospital is not appropriate to their needs. Those waiting for active treatment care are suffering, because they cannot have access to those beds which are being occupied by people who could be more appropriately placed in other facilities.

Etobicoke General Hospital is in a crisis situation. Our staff, who are dedicated and who are trying to work hard, are getting burnt out in this situation. It is clear that this government has not kept its promise to the people in the northwest end of Metro, and it is clear that this minister

seems no more intent on keeping the promises made than the former Liberal minister was. I ask that the minister look at the situation, see what is happening in the northwest end of Metro, and I hope that the Liberal members from the northwest who are not here would at least read my speech and ask their own government to do something about it.

Mr. Pollock: I am pleased to take part in this debate. There are a few things I would like to put on the record. One of them, of course, is the fact that I would like to see the Minister of Health divvy up the money just a little better.

For instance, I questioned her in the House the other day about the fact that in the Quinte area they committed so many extended care beds: Belleville was to get some, Trenton was to get some and Bancroft was also to get 11 beds. Belleville did get its beds, Trenton got its beds, but Bancroft has not got its beds yet.

I asked the Minister of Health if she would commit those beds to Bancroft and some funding for an extension of the North Hastings District Hospital or if she would actually commit the funding for a new hospital in Bancroft. I know this would be in the long term. Neither I, nor I am sure the people from the Bancroft area, expect any miracles, but I would just like her to actually make a commitment one way or the other: commit those extended care beds at the present; or if she feels the time has come to actually have a new hospital in Bancroft, actually commit the funding for that.

There have been several additions placed on the Bancroft hospital, and as I say maybe the time has come to actually commit the funding for a new hospital in the Bancroft area. I do not want to say that I expect that money or the funds to be there this year or in the next two or three years, but in the long term at least make the commitment on what she intends to do.

There are some other things I feel should be addressed in that particular area, too. There seems to be a major concern with the dispatching of ambulances in the Bancroft area. They used to dispatch the ambulances from Bancroft. Now the ambulances are all dispatched from Renfrew. That means phoning Renfrew; Renfrew in turn phones back to Bancroft and dispatches the ambulance. Well, people have been playing games; and it is most unfortunate that people do that, especially with the ambulance service.

1740

I know of a situation where I was approached in the provincial election and this fellow was extremely upset. His father had taken a heart

attack. The mother went to phone the ambulance. The ambulance dispatcher was asking all kinds of questions: when he took the heart attack, had he been sick before and all this sort of thing. The wife got so frustrated that she could hardly talk. If it had not been for the fact that the son was there, took control and actually got the message across to this dispatcher, I do not know what would have happened.

As I say, the son was telling me about it. He was very concerned and very upset over the fact that there was such confusion. Basically, it was because somebody had actually called an ambulance just for the joke of it. As I say, it is most unfortunate that people play games with the ambulance service, but it happens.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Ray Krock. Ray Krock was the administrator of Belleville General Hospital for quite a few years. He is going to be retiring at the end of May. I think he has done an exceptionally good job. Any time I have had the opportunity or needed to call him for advice, he was most co-operative. He got back to me quite promptly and we tried to resolve a situation. The new gentleman who is going to take over is Brian Steinberg. I have already talked to Brian over certain concerns and I wish him well in his new endeavours. I am sure that he will continue filling those big shoes that Ray Krock filled.

The member for Durham-York mentioned the fact that they had a fund-raising drive to actually purchase a CAT scan for a hospital in his area. I appreciate what he was saying but I can tell him that the people from Peterborough and area did that three years ago. They raised the money to actually purchase a new CAT scan. The former Minister of Health, the member for Bruce (Mr. Elston), was down there to officially open the new wing where the CAT scan was to be placed.

Mr. Philip: You cannot run a CAT scan on cookies.

Mr. Pollock: That is right.

There seems to be a lack of nurses too in Ontario. Here are some of the statistics: 35 per cent of the trained nurses work part-time and another seven per cent work on a casual basis. Another 18 per cent of trained nurses have left the profession. According to the Ontario Nurses' Association statistics, 45 per cent of the 1987 membership was working part-time. In 1973, the founding year of the Ontario Nurses' Association, 28 per cent of the membership was working part-time. Ontario is short at least 1,143 nurses, with 812 of them needed in Metropolitan Toronto alone.

I was surprised to hear the Treasurer mention the fact that there were all kinds of doctors in Ontario. In one way, I am certainly glad to hear it because of the fact that recently the local family doctor in the village of Marmora announced he was retiring. He announced this rather suddenly, and this did not give the municipality a chance to actually apply for another doctor through the system that we have for getting a doctor in these particular areas.

The family doctor who had practised there for quite a few years—his name was Dr. Parkin—at one particular time, I believe, was the coroner for the area. He was a highly respected man in the Marmora area, and of course, he is certainly going to be missed. I hope that before too long we can actually get another doctor to come to Marmora and take over there.

I just hope that the Ministry of Health can resolve some of its differences and get things back on course so that we can get back to that good health care we had three or four years ago in Ontario.

Mr. Campbell: I am pleased to rise as the member for Sudbury and take part in the debate today. As a former member and chairman of the regional health and social services committee in Sudbury, I am concerned about some of the perceptions that are being left. I realize that the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) wants to return to the good old days of health care. Let me cite in opening my portion of the debate some words from the present Minister of Health in a speech she recently gave.

"The people of Ontario place a high value on their publicly financed, publicly administered health care system. They believe that, whatever its flaws, it is an excellent system. They believe it serves them well and they want to keep it that way. I know that you are committed to the same goal. Our challenge as a government is to secure that future in co-operation with everyone in the health care partnership in this province."

Later on in the speech, though, she mentions that in Ontario we now spend over \$1 million an hour, every day, on health care; nearly one third of the total provincial budget. We have seen today the amounts of moneys which have been spent on hospitals and the amounts of moneys we commit to health care generally.

I am concerned that the very excellent work our hospitals do is being left open to some very serious questions in this debate. I know the opposition has stated in the past, certainly, that it is against extra billing. I think the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) tried to clarify that

position, but I think the perception is there that runaway health costs are acceptable.

For a number of years in northern Ontario we have suffered from a lack of the previous government's action in funding hospitals. That was perpetuated the other day when the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) talked about cardiac care in Toronto, not the rest of the province. Perhaps he does not know, and I would point out to him, that Sudbury Memorial Hospital in 1968 pioneered heart work, cardiac thoracic medicine, in this province and continues today to do a very fine job in the field.

It is not only in Toronto, being the centre of Ontario, that health care of this kind—the other hospitals can do that kind of work.

Mr. Eves: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: The member opposite is alluding to the fact of what I know and what I do not know. For the record, the cardiac units in Ontario are in Ottawa and London. They also have a small—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat, please? That is not a point of privilege. It is a point of information.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please show respect for other members who wish to speak.

Mr. Campbell: I think the member for Parry Sound doth protest too much. If he would like to listen, I can lay out some of the things his government did not do when it had the chance. He will see momentarily in the speech.

What I would like to do is continue along that vein, because in spite of all of the excellent work that Sudbury has done—I am happy the member for Parry Sound can read from briefing notes and notes he has about other cardiac systems. It just shows the number of hospitals that perform that excellent surgery. If he had said it the other day, perhaps that would have cleared up the record.

1750

Mr. Black: He just thinks about Toronto, that's all.

Mr. Eves: What has your mother got against Toronto?

Mr. Campbell: Again, as a former chairman of the regional health and social services committee in Sudbury, I had the great duty of dealing with a number of sod turnings at Laurentian Hospital.

Mr. Wildman: A number of sod turnings?

Mr. Campbell: A number of sod turnings—I am going to get to that in a moment—for the new cancer treatment centre in Sudbury. The former

Premier, one William Grenville Davis, came to Sudbury to help the member along in his re-election plans and turned the sod.

Mr. Black: Did he get re-elected?

Mr. Campbell: Well, actually he did get elected, but he had to wait for the next election again to talk about a preconstruction meeting with the local member in attendance.

Mr. Wildman: Sods and sods, you are talking about?

Mr. Campbell: Sods and sods of sod turnings; I want to tell members that.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Campbell: In any event, I had the pleasure of attending at a number of these functions, and yet it was this fall that our government blasted the rock, turned the sod and laid the foundation for this very excellent facility, which the members of the third party might realize did not materialize but was announced on a number of occasions. I use that illustration by way of demonstrating how we in this government have to pick up all the time after the neglect in capital funding of the previous government.

Mr. Black: Years of neglect.

Mr. Campbell: My colleague the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) mentions years of neglect.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, the member for Parry Sound.

Mr. Wildman: Where is Frank Miller?

Mr. Campbell: Well, now that you mention Frank Miller, as a matter of fact, when he came to Sudbury to close Copper Cliff Hospital, he was pelted with snowballs. As a matter of fact, that was the only hospital that ended up being closed; a number of other hospitals remained open after the closure. So it was in northern Ontario that this all happened, and I want to say to the member for Parry Sound that we are picking up after that kind of problem.

The whole thing that can be dealt with is community health centres. We would hope that in Sudbury that concept can be improved on and dealt with, because I think it goes a long way in dealing with the serious doctor shortage that we have in northern Ontario, and it is recognized that that is the case. But in spite of the amount of money that is going into hospitals and that is being dealt with in the capital part of the hospital construction, I think it is very important to know,

by way of all of these illustrations, that the capital is being spread around this province by this government, and I want to make sure it is understood that northern Ontario is part of that partnership.

Earlier this week, St. Mary's hospital in Timmins was dealt with, and St. Mary's hospital demonstrates the kind of evenhanded look at the hospitals' needs. The hospitals, correctly, had hired the prerequisite doctors for a regional health centre in Timmins, and in fact the funding was there for that approved need by the Ministry of Health. I think it is also important to know that those kinds of things are made up for, again, because of the lack of funding by the previous government.

Let me talk a bit about the ministry objectives that are currently set up, and I quote—

Mr. Pollock: You have only 38 seconds.

Mr. Campbell: Thirty-six seconds.

"Caring for chronic sufferers, the aged and mentally ill, in or closer to their own homes and communities" is one of those goals and objectives.

I think it is important to note that Sudbury has just received approval in building these chronic

care needs. We look forward to making representation on behalf of our hospitals in Sudbury to continue on, because it is a great need that exists as a result of the neglect of the former government.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

On Monday, May 16; Tuesday, May 17, and Wednesday, May 18, we will consider legislation in the following order: second reading of Bill 125, trustee representation; Bill 108, rental housing protection; Bill 130, the Waterloo region; Bill 116, northern heritage fund.

On Thursday, May 19, in the morning, private members' business standing in the names of the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) and the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague); and in the afternoon, second and third reading of private bills standing on the order paper, followed by debate on the budget motion.

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
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No. 63

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Monday, May 16, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, May 16, 1988

The House met at 1:33 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of the House to the fact that the oldest Jewish congregation in Toronto, Holy Blossom Temple, whose roots go back to some 50 families in the 1850s in this city, is celebrating this year its 50th anniversary in its present building on Bathurst Street.

It was only after the 1880s, however, with the arrival of increasing numbers of Jewish immigrants from the United States, that the congregation began to adopt the reformist Jewish posture that has become characteristic of Holy Blossom Temple. It is perhaps noteworthy that the first steps in this direction came in 1888, when the women's choir was permitted to sing at the high holy day services of that year.

The congregation has been active over the years in the development of such Jewish services as Associated Jewish Charities, the founding of the first Mount Sinai Hospital and other services for the Jewish community.

Holy Blossom, however, has been most notable for Jews and non-Jews alike in Toronto for its readiness to make common cause in attacking social problems, defending civil rights, encouraging exchanges with Christian counterparts and so on, and above all, for the outspoken and evident intelligence of its rabbis.

We remember Holy Blossom's outstanding past, we salute it on the occasion of its anniversary, and we look forward to an equally distinguished future for it in the future of this city.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, the May 12 Quebec budget provided an answer to the question, "What is the difference between a Quebec Liberal and an Ontario Liberal?" The short answer is about \$1.3 billion in tax increases. The longer answer is the Quebec Liberal budget contained two things missing from the Ontario

budget: fiscal responsibility and economic common sense.

The Quebec government, like its counterpart in Ontario, has benefited from strong economic expansion and significant revenue windfalls. However, unlike its Ontario cousin, the Quebec government has cut taxes to sustain growth and will reduce its deficit by controlling its expenditures. The Ontario government, faced with similar circumstances, resorted to a massive tax grab and will allow its expenditures to increase again at double the rate of inflation.

The Quebec government, to solve its population problems, is providing incentives for people to have more children. The Ontario budget, by comparison, was a new form of birth control. The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) wants to make sure Ontario taxes are so high people cannot afford to have children.

The Ontario Treasurer deserves a tip of the hat from taxpayers in Quebec. The Ontario budget has done more to enhance the competitive position and investment opportunities in Quebec than they could have done themselves. *Merci beaucoup*, M. Nixon. La belle province is looking better every day. The only things we have been able to discover in David Peterson's Ontario are chaos in the health care, housing and education fields, together with higher taxes and a bloated government.

CONSERVATION

Mr. Tatham: We should be working with nature. Who wants maple syrup on their pancakes? Who wants to decorate a real Christmas tree? Who wants to make some money selling firewood? Who wants to sell timber? Who wants to slow down the spring runoff? Who wants to help stop the wind from picking up rich topsoil? You do? Well, you have to plant some trees. Contact your local Ministry of Natural Resources field office or the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. They will help you to work with nature.

William O. Douglas put it this way: "I hope they will come to love the continent, the most beautiful one in the world. I hope that before it is too late they will develop a reverence for rich soils, pure waters, rolling grass country, high mountains and mysterious estuaries. I hope that

they will put their arms around this part of the wondrous planet, love it, care for it and treat it as they would a precious and delicate child."

HOUSING ADVERTISEMENT

Mr. Farnan: I wish to draw to the attention of members an advertisement that appeared in the Toronto Star, in the housing section, on Saturday, May 14. It is promoting the Green Briar adult condominium community and it offers a coupon worth \$18,000. As some members will recognize, it is equivalent to the entire deposit required for a \$90,000 home purchase. How upsetting for young families attempting to put together the down payment on their first affordable home. If this represented a real saving of \$18,000, then we could hardly find fault with it.

The reality, of course, is that the \$18,000 represents a come-on. Presumably at no extra cost this coupon will provide extras, which include a large, finished family room, log-burning fireplace, tempered glass doors, three-piece bathroom, modular shower, laundry room, furniture-finished cupboards, floor features, broadloom and vinyl. Interestingly, the \$18,000 can be applied only to those models priced at \$165,000 and above. Other homes are priced from \$150,000 but with no coupon for \$18,000. I urge the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) to review this type of misleading advertising.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mrs. Marland: Last week Metro council voted to close the Commissioner Street incinerator, a move that my party has been advocating for some time. The incinerator had been a major source of airborne pollution in east Toronto, dropping more than five kilograms of deadly dioxins into the air every year. While I applaud this move by Metro, there are still a number of issues that have to be addressed by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). This province has a serious waste crisis. Metro alone produces more than three million tons of waste per year and is running out of space at existing dump sites. Dozens of other municipalities are facing the same problem.

1340

I have some specific suggestions I would like the minister to consider. The Minister of the Environment should make waste disposal a matter of provincial interest under the Planning Act, as his government has done with housing in Bill 128. The province should give municipali-

ties the authority to consider provincially owned land for waste disposal sites. Now surplus staff from the Commissioner Street incinerator should be used for stepped-up recycling programs. The minister should establish regional waste management councils to co-ordinate regional waste management strategies.

I hope the minister will show some leadership and seriously consider my suggestions as a way to solve the waste disposal crisis in a co-ordinated fashion.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Adams: I commend the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) for keeping the widening of Highway 115 on track in face of fierce competition for dollars which has resulted from years of Tory neglect of the province's highway system. Highway 115 is a key step in the opening up of central and eastern Ontario. The improved highway will be further encouragement for the healthy expansion of Metro towards the east, thus relieving pressures on the magnificent and very special farm and escarpment lands of southwestern Ontario.

It will also improve the competitiveness of central and eastern Ontario. The minister's plan of GO Transit rail service to the east end of Oshawa and of improving access beyond via Highway 115 is truly visionary. The entire province is eagerly awaiting completion of this GO Transit-Highway 115 system. I urge the minister to keep up pressure on this important matter. Highway 115 will affect the daily and weekend lives of millions of people in this province.

ZOO LICENSING

Mr. Philip: On Saturday I had the honour of addressing the convention of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies. I was particularly pleased with the interest and support expressed by Nancy Erickson, president of the Canadian federation, and other delegates for my private member's bill, Bill 129, which will empower the Ministry of Natural Resources to set standards and license zoos.

My bill has been endorsed by zoologists, veterinarians and humane societies across the province. Many private zoos in Ontario offer a definite danger to public health and safety by allowing for the transmission of diseases between animals and humans. Animals are also kept in inappropriate shelters, and improperly fed and sick animals are not receiving adequate veterinary care.

With the current vacuum in the law, there are no requirements to determine the educational, practical and financial capabilities of people wishing to operate zoos in this province. There is no method to ensure that educational programs are instituted, that facilities provide for conservation efforts or that valid scientific studies are conducted to aid in the welfare of the captive animals.

In introducing this bill, my bill comes to grips with these problems. On February 23 I wrote to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and asked for his opinion on the bill. I have yet to receive a reply from the minister.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Premier. I know that the Premier had a meeting this morning with Mr. Crosbie, the representative of the federal government with respect to international trade. When the Premier matched wits with Mr. Crosbie this morning, did he inform him directly that it was Ontario's intention to challenge federal legislation invading the provincial jurisdiction legally in the courts? Was that his information directed to Mr. Crosbie?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Yes, it was. I would expect that some time this week there will be implementing legislation presented in the federal Parliament. I did not see copies of the legislation. As I understand it, the federal government is looking at various options at this point. We will examine that very closely when it is presented. My sense is that there are going to be some very serious jurisdictional problems in a variety of areas, and I do not exclude the possibility, I say to my friend, that other provinces may take up the same view.

Mr. B. Rae: I am a little surprised, given what the Premier has just told us, that he did not have a statement to make in the House today about Ontario's position, but since he has not made a statement perhaps he can tell us, in response to my questions, what form this challenge from Ontario is going to take. I might add that up until now the government of Ontario has not indicated in any way, shape or form how it intends to challenge the federal legislation.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I contemplated having a statement for my honourable friend, but I honestly did not think there was anything specific to report, in the sense that we do not know the nature of the implementing legislation. As soon as we see that, perhaps this week, we will analyse

it and share our views with members of the House on this matter, as I am sure the member will share his views. But it is impossible to tell the member specifically, at this moment, in the absence of the implementing legislation.

My honourable friend will know I have always taken the view that the operative document we will really be able to look at in detail is the implementing legislation, and that is coming along. I told Mr. Crosbie, and I share with members of the House, that I do not exclude or I do not dismiss the possibility of a constitutional challenge. I think it is a very real possibility.

Mr. B. Rae: I have asked only two questions and I already have two different answers. I asked the Premier in my first question whether it was Ontario's intention to challenge the legislation and whether that is what he told Mr. Crosbie. His answer to me on my first question was that yes, that was what he told Mr. Crosbie and that was Ontario's intention. Now he is saying he does not exclude that possibility.

I would like to ask the Premier again, can he tell us, did he tell Mr. Crosbie categorically this morning that it was Ontario's intention to challenge the federal legislation with respect to provincial jurisdiction in the Supreme Court? Is that the information he extended to Mr. Crosbie this morning—yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Obviously, it depends on what is in the legislation. Surely that is not difficult to understand. There are no verbal tricks in this, I say to my honourable friend. As I said this morning, I am clearly of the view that because of the potential constitutional ramifications, not just Ontario but also others will challenge this. As I said, if we can attend until we get the legislation some time this week, then we will examine it and discuss in detail the specific grounds for that constitutional challenge.

Perhaps my friend would like to do it in just a theoretical sense. It is our view, obviously, that we have to do it against a particular piece of legislation. So when we have analysed that and the member has had an opportunity to analyse it, he will look at the areas of provincial jurisdiction that he thinks are being trammelled and then we will share our views and proceed from there.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question to the Minister of Health. I say to the minister that since raising the example of Mr. LeBel in the Legislature last week, we have now heard from many patients who are in a similar position. The minister's advice to Mr. LeBel and to me was that he should

shop around and get another opinion. These are people who are in many cases bedridden and in enormous pain, and the minister's advice to them is that they should search around Ontario for a better deal.

I would like to ask the minister, has she herself, in the time since I raised the question of Mr. LeBel, had a chance to review the waiting-list situation around the province, and can she tell the House what she thinks the average waiting list is for an operation similar in seriousness to Mr. LeBel's?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We are in the process, continually, of reviewing waiting lists. Waiting lists are not new and if the Leader of the Opposition at any time wants to mention specific individuals or cases, we are always pleased to do whatever we can to look into individual cases because we are concerned that people receive care when needed.

Mr. B. Rae: Since the minister says she is interested in acting as a kind of referral agency, perhaps I could refer to her and give her the following names:

Duncan MacDonald, who is 52 years old, lives in Brockville and has degenerative osteoarthritis. His operation has been delayed until October 24, 1989.

Gloria Stephenson is 39 years old and has a rare congenital form of arthritis. Her operation has been scheduled for February 1, 1990.

Maria Fecko is 81 years old and lives with her daughter in Downsview. She has been scheduled for March 7, 1989. She has had two hip operations done by Dr. Cameron, the latest one in 1980.

Alice Mitchell is from Scarborough. She is 59 years old and has rheumatoid arthritis. She has to wait until June 1990.

Harry Seeley has to wait until April 1989. He is also from Oshawa.

1350

I can keep bringing these cases forward to the minister. I would like to ask the minister, what is she going to do in response to what is clearly a critical problem facing not just one patient, but indeed many patients who are being told they have to wait until 1989 or 1990 to have a very serious medical condition dealt with in this province?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The waiting lists, as I mentioned to the Leader of the Opposition, are not new. In fact, they have existed for some five

to 10 years. I am very concerned about those waiting lists and we have already moved. This government announced an unprecedented capital program. Some 3,200 chronic care beds have been announced as well as over 700 acute beds, at a cost of over \$850 million. We recognize that there is much to be done because of the neglect of the past, and there are no easy solutions.

Mr. B. Rae: I can say to the minister in response to her answer that in fact it is not true that nothing has got worse since she became minister. With respect to some hospitals, the situation has got considerably worse and the number of operations has been cut by as much as 50 per cent.

I wonder if the minister can tell us what she is going to do about the Wellesley Hospital in Toronto, where for a similar operation there is a four-month or five-month wait for a consultation and then a six-month wait for surgery; about the Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, where there is a four-month wait for a consultation and then a year's wait for surgery; about St. Joseph's Hospital in London, where there is a three-month wait for a consultation and up to a six-month wait for surgery; the Ottawa Civic Hospital, where there is a wait of two months to a year for surgery, depending on the surgeon; and St. Joseph's General Hospital in Peterborough, where there is up to a 16-month wait for surgery, depending on the surgeon? They are booked up until September 1989.

Mr. Speaker: And your question?

Mr. B. Rae: This is not some theoretical, academic problem facing the planners and the Minister of Health. These are patients who are in pain, who are having to wait for as long as two years for an operation in this province for a very serious condition. Just what is the minister going to do about this critical situation?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I have said in the House in the last few days, I believe part of the solution to this is that we carefully plan and then manage the resources. If we do not do that, if we allow hospitals to independently do their own planning, we will see waiting lists grow. We will also not be successful in moving our resources into the community so that we can have a kind of mix and balance in our health care system.

We have moved to expand our chronic care beds and our acute care beds. We recognize this cannot be accomplished overnight. It will take some time. We are very concerned about those waiting lists, but I can tell the member that it is essential that the ministry be permitted to plan, to

approve in advance and then to manage the resources that are given to us.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Premier and it is with respect to the question of Meech Lake. The Premier's original position in regard to the Meech Lake accord was that Ontario would not accept any amendment to the accord prior to its being ratified by this Legislature. I wonder if the Premier can share with us if that is still his position, that no amendments will in fact be allowed or recognized by this province before ratification.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My view is that we should proceed with Meech Lake. I am sure the select committee on constitutional reform will have advice for the government and members of the Legislature with respect to other discussions that are going on. After all, in a sense, Meech Lake is just the beginning of constitutional reform, as my honourable friend would know. It is enshrined in that document that there would be meetings on an annual basis after that. It is my view, however, that it is very much in the interests of the country to pass that and I hope the other provinces take the same view.

Mr. Brandt: As the Premier is well aware, there are some very substantive differences of opinion within his own party—I might add that cuts across partisan party lines—in regard to the Meech Lake accord. I want to make it clear to the Premier that from our side of the House we are going to attempt to be as co-operative as we can in finding a common solution that is acceptable to all in regard to the accord. But it does appear that there are provinces—namely, Manitoba, which I brought to the Premier's attention and which he is aware of, and certainly New Brunswick—which appear to be a little unsettling in terms of the position they are taking.

Would it be the Premier's position that he will attempt to accommodate some of these differences of opinion by allowing some amendments to flow forward, either from this Legislature or from other signatories to the accord, in order to find a method of ratification that is acceptable to all?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the honourable member's question and it is constructively put. I think the thing we have to ask ourselves—it is not so much a question of whether Ontario, this government, will accept amendments, but whether they will be acceptable to all 11 governments. Really, that is the context in which we have to discuss this entire matter. You have to

ask yourself whether the federal government, which I gather is going to be discussing the Meech Lake accord again this week, would accept those, whether Quebec would, whether the western provinces would. That really is the question we are faced with.

I agree with my honourable friend that this is an issue that cuts across partisan lines and it is an important issue for all Canadians. There are different points of view in all the political parties. That being said, charged as I am with the position of leadership, as are the member and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) in this particular matter, we have to come to some difficult judgements, as we always do on many issues, about what is in the national interest at this point.

I believe very strongly it is in the national interest to seize this historic opportunity to bring Quebec into the Constitution. As my honourable friend rightly points out, there are still two years in which the other provinces will have to deal with this matter. I cannot predict how it will turn out in New Brunswick, or Manitoba for that matter. Lots of discussions will ensue, but I think it would be presumptuous to assume we are in a position here to speak for all of Canada or in a position to break, shall we say, the logjam if in fact one develops.

I say to my honourable friend, because I am sure he would take the same view if he were in my position, that Ontario will do whatever it can to be constructive as discussions unfold, if in fact they do unfold, but at this moment it is my best judgement that it is in the national interest to bring Quebec into the Constitution and start a process that will, I think, move a long way to building a stronger Canada.

Mr. Brandt: I appreciate that response on the part of the Premier and I want him again to know that we on this side of the House, as well as in many of the political parties across this country, are struggling for a comfort level, if you will, with the accord that will be acceptable to all the parties to that particular document.

My colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) provided what he felt was a constructive suggestion to this entire debate in that he proposed a companion document be aligned with the accord, which would not require a de facto amendment to the document itself but would be a companion document that could perhaps clarify some of those outstanding issues that are troublesome to a lot of people.

I ask the Premier this question: Has he raised this particular alternative, this suggestion put forward in a very responsible way by my

colleague to my left in regard to this companion document, to see if that could not in fact break the logjam and assist in finding some common ground so that we can proceed to accommodate the best interests of Quebec in the context of the best interests of Canada?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We for the last year, and the government prior to that for two years, have been investigating all aspects of the Meech Lake document and the effects on our country, both long-term and short-term, both political and legal. I say with some pride that the best legal work done on the document was in the submission to the committee by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) a week or so ago. I hope people will read that particular submission because I think it puts to rest some of the fears that have been raised by some surrounding the Meech Lake document.

One of the views the government has is that we needed a full and open discussion of these matters with all members of the Legislature. From everything I hear, the committee has conducted itself in an exemplary way, getting the views of the public on this matter.

1400

The committee may come forward with a companion suggestion or suggestions—I have no idea how they view the situation—for the second round or the third round. As the member knows, there is controversy over the matters of fisheries and Senate reform and a variety of other matters. Obviously, I will take that very seriously and I will share whatever information comes forward with my colleagues.

But I think it would be, and I say this kindly, presumptuous to think that one of us in this House has the magic breakthrough to an inordinately complex set of discussions. I approach this in the same spirit of charity as do the member for Nipissing, the member himself, the Leader of the Opposition and all members of the House.

Ultimately, I think we have to form a judgement about, bottom-line, what is in the interests of this country, and starting from there, go on dealing with this organic document that a constitution is, to deal with the second, third and fourth rounds. We have created in the process an expert body of opinion in this Legislature on constitutional matters, and I think that is important as well.

I think we should approach it in that light and my best advice is to proceed with the matter.

Mr. Brandt: I am still not sure whether a companion document will be accepted but I will read in Hansard the words of the Premier very carefully.

POLICIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mr. Brandt: My second question to the Premier is with respect to the ruling that came down in November 1987 in regard to the question of wine and spirit pricing, the ruling that was brought in by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. As a result, Canada, I believe with Ontario's concurrence, attempted to negotiate a 12-year phase-in period that was rejected by the European Community. Canada, as I understand it at the moment, accepted the ruling and now has until the end of this year to come up with a plan acceptable to the EC, as a result of the charges it brought against us.

My question to the Premier is, does the Premier accept the GATT ruling; if so, does Ontario intend to comply, and if not, does he intend to go to court over Ontario being forced to comply with the GATT ruling?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: First of all, it was not Ontario's to accept or not accept. It was the federal government's. The federal government was charged with those negotiations, not us. I say, without trying to be unkind, that had we been charged with the negotiations, we probably would have done it differently.

That being said, it is the federal government that was charged with this. Now the country has until the end of the year to go back to GATT with a response. That response is being discussed with all the various parties.

Mr. Brandt: I have to say, with respect, to the Premier that traditionally he has taken the position that beer, wine and spirits do come under provincial jurisdiction, that they are in fact a matter for provincial decision. If the Premier felt so strongly about the difference of opinion with respect to the 12-year period, I would think he would have shared that view with the federal government in a more forceful fashion.

Let me simply ask then, is the Premier holding to the position that it will be a 12-year settlement with respect to the EC charges for compliance with the GATT ruling, or is he prepared to accept the seven years that has been put forward as the compromise view, or something in between?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think my honourable friend's view is quite right, that the seven years is a compromise. The reality is that under the free trade agreement, a seven-year phase-down has been ensconced in that particular piece of legislation, with the markups falling 25 per cent in the first two years. In our judgement, that free trade agreement, the bilateral agreement, would effectively wipe out the substance

of our grape-growing, wine-producing industry, with all the farmers and all the productive land in that regard.

We do not accept that. We do not accept the federal government's right to make a treaty in that particular area of provincial jurisdiction. The answer to my friend is that we do not accept that and I will not bring in legislation to implement that.

Mr. Brandt: I ask the Premier, in light of the comments he has just made, is he prepared then to accept retaliatory action on the part of other nations that are partners to or part of the EC and have brought these particular concerns before the GATT tribunal, with respect to the decision it made? Is he then prepared to accept that form of international trade retaliation that will affect not only Ontario but also all parts of Canada?

Is the Premier not aware of the fact that if Ontario stands firm on its position, without attempting to find some common ground for agreement, we could in fact be setting off some form of trade war or trade retaliation that will have a very negative impact on this province and on other provinces throughout this country?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Again I repeat, it is the federal government that has not accepted the GATT ruling. We are not in a legal position because as a province we do not have standing at GATT to accept it or deny it. It is the federal government that has turned that down and that is under the obligation to speak. Obviously, when they attended at Brussels, Ontario and other provinces were there giving their advice, but ultimately the decision was made by the federal government on how to carry on those discussions.

We put forward a plan that we think is sensible, reasonable and fair under the circumstances, a program that would allow for phase-down of markups in an orderly way, working with the grape growers and the wine producers to salvage what is possible out of that industry. We think our position is extraordinarily reasonable and we think that with effective leadership—

Mr. Brandt: But it's not acceptable.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: How does the member know it is not acceptable?

Mr. Brandt: Because they've turned it down, that's why.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend—I am not trying to be provocative—is willing to capitulate now, lie down on the floor and wipe out 25,000 acres of grapes in this province.

Mr. Brandt: That isn't what I said at all.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: That is what he is saying. That is the bottom line of what he is saying, effectively. I say to my honourable friend that I do not accept that view because we are going to fight for our Canadian industries and our Canadian farmers.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Farnan: I have in my possession several letters from residents of Cambridge who complain about the postponement of elective surgery.

I would like to bring to the attention of the minister an extract from a letter from Doug Coghlin of Cambridge who spent some three hours in the emergency department suffering from frostbite before he received attention. He notes in part of his letter, "The emergency department was full of others in need who had as much right to attention as I."

He notes also: "I have always found them"—the staff—"to be caring, hardworking professionals who are now being pushed to the limit and beyond. It is, as I've said before, the system which is at fault and of course the bottom line is money."

The questions I would ask the minister are the questions contained in Mr. Coghlin's letter. It was received in January. They are as follows:

"Does the Ministry of Health not recognize that the city of Cambridge and surrounding area is expanding at such a rate that the current health care system is inadequate?"

"Do they not believe that it is essential to have a health care facility capable of handling the volume of patients who turn to it for medical treatment?"

"Do they not believe the citizens of this area have a right to expect reasonably expedient care and treatment?"

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have already asked three questions.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I note that the member opposite, and in fact the leader of his party, continues to support and champion the cause of the Cambridge Memorial Hospital. Just last Friday, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) said he supports the moves that Cambridge hospital is making. He says he is proud of them and he says they are doing the responsible thing. I find this doubly surprising because during the Canada Health Day debate, the critic in the New Democratic Party, from the official opposition, said he found the proposals to charge user fees and to shut down beds to be goofy proposals.

Mr. Farnan: Being a new member, Mr. Speaker, I would ask your indulgence. Am I supposed to get an answer from the minister when I ask a question?

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the honourable member to ask a question through the chair to the minister. I cannot put words in either the questioner's or the responder's mouth.

Mr. Farnan: Woods Gordon reported to the Ministry of Health that Cambridge Memorial Hospital was an efficiently and effectively run organization and that no fault could be found with the handling of funds or the delivery of services by the hospital. Moreover, studies conducted through the Ontario Hospital Association had proven that, compared to 23 other Ontario hospitals with 200 to 399 general-care or long-term-care beds, CMH was among the lowest in cost per patient-day.

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My question to the minister is this: Given that the Cambridge hospital received the average unit cost for the mean of hospitals of equivalent size and service provided, the cost to the Ministry of Health would have been an additional \$49 million over the past six years; and given that the Cambridge Memorial Hospital per unit cost is some \$80 per day lower than the average hospital in its comparison group, will the minister acknowledge the excellent cost-effective performance of the Cambridge Memorial Hospital and guarantee the Cambridge Memorial—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question was well put and there was a lot of information previously.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Over the past five years, Cambridge Memorial Hospital has received base increases of some 41 per cent. Each year they ran a deficit and each year the deficit was picked up and the base was enriched.

Mr. Farnan: Less than Sunnybrook; less than Sunnybrook.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The issue is who plans, who approves and then how they manage. The Leader of the Opposition and his party have said that we have been unjustified in sending in an investigator under the Public Hospitals Act—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: What I would suggest—
Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would like to remind the member for Cambridge that he had 120

seconds to place his supplementary question. Please allow for the response.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would like to suggest that unless we plan well and manage well, we will have the unplanned, unmanageable system that the leader of the third party and his government were noted for when they had the opportunity to govern.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health, as well. Her predecessor initiated a policy of cutting back 40 hospital residency positions a year for some five years. This was to result in a net reduction of 200 positions over the five-year period. Hospitals say they need these positions to provide the services they perform. Does she agree with the hospitals?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Manpower planning in this province is something that I believe is extremely important. It is also an area that I think was not done well in previous years by the previous government. I have been meeting with the Council of Faculties of Medicine to discuss appropriate manpower planning in this province.

Mr. Eves: Although the minister did not answer the question at all, we will ask her a supplementary, anyway. Hospitals were originally promised somewhere between \$100,000 and \$120,000 per position eliminated per year to provide the services that these interns would have otherwise provided.

Now we understand that Dr. Barkin has told them they will not be receiving that funding after all. How does the minister expect these hospitals to provide the services? They were promised the money and now her deputy minister is reneging on the promise and apparently telling them they will not get the money to provide those services. How does the minister explain that and does she agree with that?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Our goal is to ensure that health services are fairly funded in this province; as well, it is to ensure that our manpower planning needs are met in the future. We have been working very closely with the universities and the faculties of medicine to ensure that that is properly and appropriately done. I think it is important when we look at these kinds of issues to remember that it is the problems that were created in the past that we are facing and attempting to deal with more effectively today.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I have been approached by

members of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, saying that they fear we are in danger of losing our natural resources, our forests and our wilderness more quickly under the proposed trade deal with the United States than we are at the present time.

Environmental programs to reduce pollution could be in jeopardy. They say that, especially if they include economic incentives, they feel the regulation of toxic substances, notably pesticides, could be weakened, as the Canadian evaluation and approval process would have to be similar to the system in the United States.

My question to the minister is, can the government of Ontario exercise any form of independent action, independent of Ottawa, in the protection of our environment's future?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The question the member raises is one of great concern, I think, not only to the Canadian Environmental Law Association but also to many Environment ministers across the country, as it means we will have increased pressure coming from those who do not wish to see environmental regulations extended or expanded at a rapid rate. The excuse that will be used is that we now have or will have free trade, if this were to pass the federal House and the US Congress, and therefore there would be a great movement to have similar environmental regulations.

We in this province would not mind if those environmental regulations were indeed as tough as possible, but our concern is that in some of the jurisdictions in the United States they are not and that the same companies that deal with provinces in this country deal with states in the US and, therefore, will increase the pressure to eliminate environmental controls in some cases or at least to reduce the rate at which we are imposing new and more stringent regulations.

I want to assure the member it is not the intention of Ontario to move in that direction. It is our intention to continue to make ever more stringent the environmental regulations and legislation in this province to ensure that those who do business in this province do it under the environmental umbrella that the people of this province voted to have in place.

Mr. Owen: I know the minister has had the opportunity to discuss a number of environmental matters with the federal minister. What I would like to ask the minister today is, in his discussions with Mr. McMillan, has he raised this specific concern with Mr. McMillan, and what is the response from Ottawa with our concern as to the protection of Ontario's future?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: At the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers conference in Alberta, I think it was two years ago, the issue was discussed at that time. The member may recall—

Mr. B. Rae: Tell us about that meeting two years ago.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Pardon? The member for the third party has a question as well, and he has disrupted my thought process, which is very difficult.

An hon. member: Start over.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: It does not mean you have to start over.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I will try to redirect my mind to the question that was asked.

Subsequent to the conference that took place in Alberta, there was a media availability and press conference and the matter was discussed at some length at that time as well.

In addition to that, in August 1987 I brought greetings to a group which was meeting in Toronto—again, Environment ministers and others concerned with these issues—and at that time took advantage of the opportunity, as the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) and the leader of the third party would want me to do, to make very clear the concerns of Ontario as they relate to free trade and as to the effect on the environment. We believe there was not sufficient time, effort and energy provided in those discussions between Canada and the US.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. On June 9, 1987, the previous Minister of Labour announced changes in the regulations under the Employment Standards Act, effective October 1, 1987, which were supposed to protect the 65,000 domestics in Ontario from exploitation in terms of hours of work and overtime.

We told the minister at the time that the hours off in lieu of overtime, when the domestics had no right to organize and no bargaining power, would render the move useless.

The minister is now aware that his government's so-called protection has allowed continued exploitation of domestics, mostly low-paid, immigrant women. Can the minister tell this House what he is prepared to do to end this gross injustice?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I appreciate my friend the member for Hamilton East's raising the question.

I think he knows I was meeting earlier today with an organization called Intercede, the International Coalition To End Domestic Workers' Exploitation, whose responsibility it is, I think, to bring issues affecting domestic workers to the attention of government. At that meeting, representatives of Intercede suggested to me that the provision which provided for time off in lieu of overtime pay was certainly not being taken advantage of in the appropriate way by the workforce.

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I am not sure that the suggestion my friend the member for Hamilton East makes is the appropriate one. In effect, what that provision does is it says to a domestic worker who works overtime that if that worker prefers to have time off rather than to have the overtime pay, that worker can take advantage of that. If it is really a question of enforcement and whether neither premium pay nor time off is being granted, that is another issue, an enforcement issue, and I would like to hear my friend's view on that and Intercede's views.

Mr. Mackenzie: I will try very carefully to tell the minister so he understands. With no right to organize into a union, no maximum hours and no way to enforce the hours of work or payment of overtime, these immigrant workers have now been forced to go to court under the Charter of Rights. Is this the way the Liberal government looks after immigrant and ethnic minorities: passing legislation that allows continued exploitation, even when warned of it, and then arrogantly telling the delegation this morning, as he did, that he is not prepared to sit down with Intercede to negotiate changes in the regulations that might give them the protection?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I resent the tone of voice from my friend the member for Hamilton East and the suggestion that I was not willing to listen to Intercede's point of view. Obviously, when a group comes in to me and says, "Listen, we would like the law changed," I am not going to say, "OK, let's sit down and negotiate a change to the law."

I will tell my friend the member for Hamilton East there are lot of people who come into my office and say, "We would like to change the Ontario Labour Relations Act to remove the right to strike from certain groups." Is he still telling me that when a group like that comes in, I should say, "OK, let's sit down and negotiate it"?

Just to clarify the issue, let me tell members the point that is at issue here. The vast majority of the workforce, when they are working overtime, have only the right to say, "I have worked

overtime; therefore I have a right under the act to time and a half."

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Mr. Speaker, obviously they do not want to hear an answer to the question.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Most employees do not have the opportunity to say, "Instead of paying me the overtime pay, I would like time off." The vast majority of the workforce do not have that opportunity. When we crafted those new regulations affecting domestic workers, we said, first, that after 44 hours of work, domestic workers will be paid time and a half for overtime work. Now, by mutual agreement, where the domestic worker prefers, instead of the premium time-and-a-half pay, to have time off at a rate of time and a half, she has that option.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Premier on Bill 108, the Rental Housing Protection Amendment Act. Given that the Rental Housing Protection Act has been in force for two years, given the fact that it was set out to be only an interim measure and given the fact that no one is happy with it, and now that we have had two years to come up with other plans to get rid of this highly flawed piece of legislation, can he give this House an explanation on why his government has not developed a strategy to address the problems of the Rental Housing Protection Act?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I can tell my honourable friend that we are reviewing all aspects of housing policy, including that one.

Mr. Cousens: The Premier himself on May 6, 1986, some two years ago, said on Bill 11, which is, under a new guise, now the Rental Housing Protection Amendment Act, "The legislation was introduced as a short-term measure to combat the real crisis in terms of affordable housing in Ontario and will be replaced with a new housing policy after two years."

The two years have now elapsed and the Premier is still giving just talk and no action. What has his Ministry of Housing done in the past two years? Who has he been talking to? What has he come up with? Why is it that he has to come back with the same piece of legislation?

Mr. Speaker: That seems like three questions.

Mr. Cousens: What he is doing is delaying the inevitable and playing games with tenants and landlords.

Mr. Speaker: Order. You have already asked three questions.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I stopped playing games the minute I assumed the office over here. When the member is going to stop playing games is the question.

PURCHASE OF CONDOMINIUMS

Mr. Ferraro: My question is for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations and it is concerning the purchase of condominium units in Ontario. I should tell members this serious problem was brought to my attention by a fine lawyer in my riding by the name of Peter Giffen.

Specifically, the situation exists in Ontario whereby someone purchasing a condominium for whatever price, either conditionally or unconditionally, puts down a deposit. Let us assume, for example, \$200,000 with an acquisition date in October. If, come October, the condominium is neither finished nor is the charter registered, the potential purchaser who wants occupancy can move into the condominium unit on specific request by the developer of the entire amount of the funds. In other words, unlike purchasing a house, whereby title is transferred when the funds are paid, the developer gets complete access to the funds without title transfer.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Ferraro: The seriousness, of course, is that some dishonest developer could take off with substantial amounts of money. My question to the minister specifically is this: Is he concerned about this problem? What is he doing about it and when?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I will not ask my friend to repeat the preamble. I think I have the gist of the problem. There is a series of problems with these so-called interim closings and indeed with what are known as ghost mortgages. The ministry is aware of the problem that the honourable member refers to.

In our review of the Condominium Act, we have been looking at the issue of interim closing and the flow of those dollars on the interim closing, and indeed a concern that the honourable member is suggesting of a requirement that those dollars flow, and I expect that when we bring forward legislative amendments in the not-too-distant future, this among other problems will be addressed in trying to clean up the Condominium Act.

Mr. Ferraro: Could the minister indicate to the House whether or not, knowing full well that

these moneys are not in an escrow account, there is any degree of insurance on behalf of the potential purchaser?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That certainly is one of the concerns that has been raised, and I would say that in the interim—I suggest this to my friend and he may want to speak to the lawyer in his riding and indeed to all those getting involved in the condominium situation—before legislative reforms come through, any flowing of dollars in the kind of amount the honourable member was referring to before title is made clear should be done only after very careful advice from a lawyer or an attorney, to ensure that the consumer is protected. We intend to take action in the longer term to ensure that the consumer is protected by legislative changes.

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. I am sure the minister is aware by now of the announced layoff at St. Clair College of 88 staff, which represents 13 per cent of the staff at St. Clair College. Some staff having up to 20 years' seniority will lose their jobs. There will be extensive program cuts and really a diminishing of the community college in our community.

I would like to ask the minister what she plans on doing to maintain the viability of this college and institute the promise she and her Premier (Mr. Peterson) made that every student who was eligible to attend post-secondary education would have a spot in Ontario. How can that promise be fulfilled with this happening at St. Clair College?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I would suggest that, again, the situation at St. Clair College is a situation in which the college has been experiencing declines in its enrolment over a number of years. It has had a significant decline in its overall enrolment, and this does necessitate that the board of governors of that college make some adjustments in its budgeting and in its programs. St. Clair College is in a situation, however, in which it is anticipating an increase in enrolment next year. The support it receives from this government will reflect the increase that is expected.

I think it should be pointed out that my understanding of the current planning of the college board of governors is that, although it is making some changes in current program offerings, it is also planning to expand some programs and, in fact, to add a new one. It is our intention

certainly to continue to support the college board in making the adjustments that are necessary.

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Mr. D. S. Cooke: The college does not appreciate the minister's support for laying off 88 people at our college. The fact of the matter is that the enrolment bottomed out in 1985-86 and has increased every year since, but the government's funding formula is such that yes, next year we are looking at a 7.6 per cent increase in enrolment, but because we have lower enrolment this year, we do not see the benefits for two years.

What is the minister prepared to do now, not two years from now, to maintain the viability of this college before all these programs are eliminated and people with 20 years' seniority are laid off?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: We do expect the colleges—and I believe they have always been expected—to adapt their programs to the particular needs and, in fact, to the particular enrolment situations of that college. I want to point out that there are some very real realities that the colleges are having to deal with. One is the cutback in direct purchases for skills training programs by the federal government. In the case of St. Clair College, that is the equivalent of a 47 per cent cutback. That clearly necessitates some changes in programs.

There is another reality in terms of the fluctuating enrolments that the colleges experience, and in some cases the colleges are experiencing decline. I have indicated to the House before that in order to manage the fluctuating enrolments which colleges experience, we have instituted a method of slip-year funding. I have indicated that, for some colleges, that does buffer a declining enrolment situation until the enrolment pattern is determined.

In the case of St. Clair, as the honourable member indicates, the enrolment is beginning to increase. It does in fact have a surplus situation which can be used as an interim buffer. There is a requirement, however, that it must make some adjustments in its programming.

We are also providing support to the colleges in addressing some of the concerns they have identified in relation to funding. We have task forces specifically looking at some of the program weights that the colleges are concerned about. But I would stress that, overall, our support for the colleges is in a percentage increase with funding of some 35.6 per cent over three years. We consider this real support and support for accessibility.

JOSEPH BRANT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Minister of Health. Last Thursday, after she was first notified four months previously, Brantwood Manor Nursing Home announced it will be closing its doors, necessitating the forced transfer of 129 residents and the loss of 129 nursing home beds in Burlington. There is a concurrent crisis at Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital less than a mile away. Her ministry will be forcing the acceptance of some of the most chronic cases from Brantwood into Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital at a time when it is facing the worst overcrowding in its history.

My question is with respect to the minister's ability to manage in this crisis. Will she today approve the proposal which has been sitting on her desk for the last six months for the expenditure of \$161,000 for startup costs for 25 additional acute care beds at Joseph Brant hospital for its west wing, fifth floor?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am very aware of the situation at Brantwood nursing home. My primary concern is for the safety and the wellbeing of the residents. The situation at Brantwood is a result of a unique set of circumstances and players. It is a privately owned nursing home. The licence, in due compliance with the Nursing Homes Act, is being turned back into the ministry. There are ongoing negotiations. However, I want to assure the member that the contingency plan that we have for the care of the residents in that home is in place and will not affect adversely or impact on Joseph Brant.

Mr. Jackson: There has been a conspiracy of silence between her ministry and Joseph Brant hospital on the Brantwood Manor issue. In fact, the very first day we were notified that the licence was being returned to the province, I asked her nursing homes branch about how they were going to handle the most severe cases, the most chronic cases at Brantwood. After weeks of playing telephone tag with the ministry, the minister's staff member Brian Cowperthwaite advised the hospital that, "The reason you weren't contacted was that you weren't supposed to know. You would be told in good time."

That was five weeks ago. As of 1:30 p.m. today, Joseph Brant hospital still has not been notified about what the ministry's plans are for the residents and the impact on the hospital. It is moving people today and tomorrow.

Will the minister approve the proposal which will increase the number of beds at Joseph Brant hospital to deal with this problem, when she

knows her options are limited in the greater Hamilton area in terms of the available number of chronic care beds?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The ministry is making every effort to keep the residents as close to home as possible. The Joseph Brant hospital must go through the appropriate planning process. I understand planning is under way, and I want to assure the member that the residents who are presently in Brantwood nursing home will be appropriately placed in a sensitive manner, because I care about the residents. I also want the member to note that Joseph Brant will not be adversely impacted by the placement.

EXPENDITURE SAVINGS AND CONSTRAINTS

Ms. Hart: My question is to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet, and it concerns the budget. In reviewing the budget, I came across an entry for which I was able to find very little explanation. I am referring to the \$500 million listed as expenditure savings and constraints. Seeing as this is surely a significant sum of money, I am wondering if the minister could explain for me where the \$500 million will come from.

Hon. Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I note that there are really only about six minutes to go through this answer. Perhaps you could let me have more time tomorrow or something, since I could give a much fuller answer.

I am pleased to address the question from the honourable member, because the question of the \$500-million saving requires us to do a great deal of planning with respect to our colleagues at Treasury and otherwise, but I can assure the member that in fact the exercise itself was started before the budget was finally set by having all of the ministers, in a very co-operative manner, review their entire ministries and advise us of places in which good management decisions, which all of these people are very capable of, would be made and would, in fact, result in actual savings to the government of Ontario.

It is in line with that, plus looking at the questions of implementation of policies and otherwise, and looking at the manner in which programs are taken up in the various sectors, that we expect to be able to find the \$500 million which is set out by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in a very full and satisfying manner to the people at Management Board.

Ms. Hart: I am a firm believer in more efficient spending of government dollars, and I fully support such an endeavour.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please allow the member to place the supplementary.

Ms. Hart: I worry about which ministries these funds will be taken from. Can the minister assure the House that the moneys will be found in a fair and equitable manner?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I am having a considerable amount of assistance from not only the people on the other side of the House but also from my colleagues, who are telling me even now how fair and equitable they can be in helping me through the roll. But certainly there are a number of ministers who are already indicating that certainly they have within their own environments ways in which they will provide us with assistance in finding the savings.

Each one of the ministers, in his or her own submissions in the run-up to budget time, has indicated where he or she would be able to find, in a very real way, through good management decisions, a good part of the money that we are looking at. We are, of course, following up in the agency review process which the government has instituted and in which, over the last three years, there has been a considerable amount of effort in finding ways of being much better in management in the government. We will find the money which has been requested in a very fair and efficient manner.

Might I say also, in the light of the very considerable public interest in this question, that in fact we will be reviewing the input of the various members of the opposition and otherwise as they go through the estimates process.

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TORONTO ISLANDS

Mr. Reville: My question is to the Premier. Today is Toronto Island Day and the islanders celebrate today the fact that they can continue to live in their homes. I understand the member for Fort York, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong), is going to celebrate with his constituents this evening.

Will the Premier tell the House whether he is sending a message along with the Minister of Energy to the island residents that he will finally honour his promise and bring in amending legislation to Bill 191 so that the islanders can continue to live there?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was not planning on sending that message today with him, but it is not a bad idea.

Mr. Reville: I am sorry to hear that and I am sure the islanders will be as well. The Premier earlier in question period said that he stopped playing games when he assumed this office. I am wondering if he will stop playing games with the islanders' lives.

Mr. Speaker: Is that your question?

Mr. Reville: Everyone knows the legislation that was brought in, Bill 191, is flawed and needs to be changed. Will the Premier now honour his promises of 1985 and 1987 and undertake to bring in those amendments?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The mayor came to visit me a few days ago on this matter and made certain suggestions. I can tell the member that it is under active review at the present time. I do not have a specific answer for my friend today, but we are looking at it.

NIAGARA COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Cunningham: My question is to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Niagara College offers a dental hygiene program which is currently facing financial difficulty. This is one of the important advanced health and technology programs that this government encourages.

We have been made aware of the third year of this program being cancelled. Janis Staddon got in touch with us and told us that she would not be able to go to that college next year to complete her third year. Is the minister aware of this problem and has she been in contact with the college?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: Yes, I am aware of that problem. The whole question of the dental hygiene program at Niagara is one which we are reviewing with the college board of governors and its administration.

Mrs. Cunningham: There are seven other courses that are not going to be offered at that college. With the minister's colleges looking at technology and advanced health sciences, which is it: Is she going to fund them or is she not?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: There are two aspects in responding to that question. One is that the majority of the program cuts being considered by the board of governors at Niagara are in areas of declining enrolment. The issue of the dental hygiene program is not in that category and, as I indicated, it is a program decision which we are reviewing.

One of the requests that we have made of college boards of governors is that we look at system-wide needs in areas of particular program

priority. Certainly the health sciences programs would fall into that category. It is also one of the reasons why we are looking at program weights for programs which colleges feel are perhaps more expensive to offer. These are all factors we will be considering in reviewing the programs at Niagara.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. McLean: I have a petition with respect to opposition to Sunday shopping from concerned constituents from the Coldwater pastoral charge.

"Living in a resort area, we are aware of the necessity of certain businesses being open on Sunday. However, we feel that businesses that are not selling the necessities of life, and industry in general, should be closed on Sunday.

"We, the undersigned, strongly urge the government of Ontario to take on the responsibility and have Sunday closing enforced. Sunday is the Sabbath and has been the traditional day of rest and should be kept for the betterment of the family unit and community."

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. McLean: I have another petition which is a resolution that has been adopted by council for the corporation of the city of Orillia, endorsing the resolution of the Association of Simcoe County Mayors, including mayors of Midland, Penetanguishene, Barrie, Bradford, Collingwood, Orillia, Stayner and Wasaga Beach, regarding the management of solid waste.

The resolution reads:

"Whereas most municipalities in the province are now or will soon be faced with serious problems with the management of solid waste; and

"Whereas at the present time the Ministry of the Environment is charged with the responsibility for solid waste management; and

"Whereas the Ministry of the Environment appears to be primarily involved with the enforcement of existing environmental legislation and regulations and seems unable by reason of its regulatory mandate to respond to the needs of municipalities for the provincial leadership required in this serious matter; and

"Whereas the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is the ministry responsible for municipalities and may be better able to co-ordinate and provide the provincial leadership required to solve waste management issues in Ontario;

"Therefore, be it resolved that the member municipalities of this association petition the

province of Ontario to direct the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to assume a co-ordinating role to assist the municipalities of Ontario to resolve the serious solid waste management problem now facing the majority of municipalities in Ontario."

That is also signed by myself.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Order. I would like to inform the members that the House is proceeding in the usual manner with petitions.

This might be an appropriate time to also remind the members who are presenting the petitions that they certainly may make a statement in matters pertaining to the material allegations but, as I said on previous occasions, it is not necessary to read all the "whereases." The "therefore" is the important part.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Mr. Swart: Pursuant to my questions and statements in the House in the last couple of weeks on Niagara College, I today want to table a petition to this Legislature. It is rather brief and reads as follows:

"Inasmuch as:

"(a) some community colleges are suspending high-cost programs;

"(b) the ministry funding mechanism does not fairly reflect the true cost of some programs;

"(c) inadequate tuition fees force colleges with a high percentage of costly health science programs into a deficit position;

"(d) the cancellations of programs within a community make them truly inaccessible to a large segment of students;

"We, the undersigned, recommend:

"(a) a review of the college funding mechanism;

"(b) a change in tuition fees to more accurately reflect the cost of individual programs."

To demonstrate the concern of the Niagara community, this petition is signed by approximately 2,575 people.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have another petition?

NIAGARA COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Swart: Yes, I have a second petition. This petition is more specific and says:

"As a student currently enrolled in the dental hygiene program at Niagara College I am aware of the proposed suspension of this program. Being a concerned student I would have been willing to pay substantially increased tuition fees in order to reverse this proposal. As it is the only one offered in Ontario south of Toronto and east

of London, it is essential that this program not be suspended. It would be a great loss to the college, community and future students to eliminate this quality program."

It is signed by approximately 60 students who are in that program.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Mr. Leone: I have a petition here from a group of concerned parents in my riding. It is addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and this Legislative Assembly:

"We, being members of the Downsview Secondary School Parent Advisory Council, would like to register our objection to the proposed inclusion under the freedom-of-information act of school records concerning students 16 years of age and over. We believe that denying parents access to these records will be detrimental to the welfare of their children and that amendments to the act should be introduced immediately to exempt students from the provisions of the act for as long as they are in attendance at secondary school, up to and including the last year, or for as long as they remain under direct parental supervision."

The petition has been signed by 19 parents and also by myself.

1450

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Eves: I have a petition signed by 2,000 irate taxpayers in Ontario which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Is there a mirror behind that?

Mr. Eves: No, there is not a mirror behind that, as a matter of fact.

Mr. Speaker: Has the member signed the petition?

Mr. Eves: Yes.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

Hon. Mr. Elston: Before orders of the day, I would like to table the answers to questions 103 and 116 standing on the order paper [see Hansard for Tuesday, May 24].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

EDUCATION STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

LOI MODIFIANT DES LOIS CONCERNANT L'ÉDUCATION (suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education.

Mr. Villeneuve: It is a pleasure to continue the debate on Bill 125.

When we adjourned the debate a week or so ago, I was mentioning the concern of the people in the rural areas of Ontario, particularly the riding I represent, Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry. I was making some remarks pertaining to a motion that was moved by Roy Hastings and seconded by Graham Casselman regarding a request that the government of Ontario review and revise the legislation to guarantee the present number of trustees now serving our rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, I know you represent some rural areas in your riding, as do many of our colleagues here in the Legislature. We have to appreciate the fact that rural Ontario tends to be overlooked many times whenever we are creating legislation, whether it is redistributing the provincial ridings, the federal ridings, or, indeed, the school board representation.

According to Bill 125, a number of these redistributions will occur in the rural parts of Ontario, reducing to some degree the representation from these very important sections of our province.

According to the Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections, which of course include elections to school boards, I want to touch on recommendations 81 and 82.

Recommendation 81 is as follows: "The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not enact any legislation affecting the local government electoral process within the six months immediately preceding voting day, in an election year."

As you know, we are less than six months away from the nomination time, and certainly Bill 125 has still to receive third reading and royal assent. I believe we are not only working at the 11th hour, but are working at the 12th hour and beyond the 12th hour.

Recommendation 82: "The committee recommends that no changes in the method of election

or in the composition of municipal councils or school boards be permitted after January 15th of an election year."

Again, we are way beyond what were the recommendations of a committee to advise the government on a number of bills, including Bill 125.

I believe it is most important that this government pay heed to the recommendations of its own committee and also to the concerns as expressed by numerous people, not the least of whom are the people representing those rural areas of Ontario. I emphasize this to the government and I hope appropriate action will be taken when this bill goes to committee.

J'ai aussi eu certaines recommandations de l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario. Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, le projet de loi 125, qui remplace le projet de loi 76, amène des changements considérables à une situation qui se produira cet automne, nécessairement: les élections municipales ainsi que les élections dans le domaine scolaire.

«L'AFCSO a pris connaissance du projet de loi 125 sur la répartition des conseils scolaires, déposé à l'Assemblée législative le 26 avril 1988 par le ministre de l'Éducation. Ce projet de loi retire aux Franco-Ontariens des droits qu'ils avaient acquis avec la Loi 75.» Vous êtes bel et bien au courant de cela, Monsieur le Président.

«En conséquence, l'AFCSO ne peut pas appuyer ce projet de loi, et juge même que certaines des dispositions qu'il contient sont anticonstitutionnelles», quelque chose qui est très grave dans le monde d'aujourd'hui. «Nous réitérons ici les sérieuses préoccupations que nous avons signalées au gouvernement suite au dépôt du projet de loi 76 devant l'Assemblée législative en décembre 1987», lequel a été remplacé par le projet de loi 125, comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président.

«Le gouvernement veut utiliser les données du recensement pour déterminer le nombre de conseillers scolaires dans les sections linguistiques des conseils scolaires. Ceci aura pour effet de diminuer le nombre actuel de conseillers dans les sections de langue française, alors que leur nombre est déjà un minimum avec lequel il est extrêmement difficile de travailler. Le nombre de conseillers scolaires francophones ne doit pas être inférieur à ce qui est prévu par la Loi 75.»

Deuxièmement, un autre problème que voit l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario est exprimé comme suit:

«Il s'avère extrêmement difficile d'informer la communauté francophone en si peu de temps au sujet de leurs nouveaux droits et de la nécessité de s'identifier lors du recensement. Il est tout à fait inacceptable que les données du recensement soient utilisées à d'autres fins que l'élection des conseillers scolaires, alors que la communauté n'est pas informée de ces autres implications.»

Comme vous le savez, Monsieur le Président, la date limite du 12 mai est déjà passée, et nous avons encore à la radio et à la télévision certains renseignements provenant du gouvernement actuel qui nous disent de remplir nos formules et de les remettre au bureau du recensement.

Alors, je crois que ça indique, sans aucune controverse, que le public ontarien ne comprend pas ce qui se passe et ne s'y intéresse même pas. Ce sera la première fois que les Franco-Ontariens éliront, au suffrage universel, des conseillers scolaires francophones qui géreront les écoles françaises qui sont les leurs. Afin de pouvoir exercer ce nouveau droit, ils doivent s'identifier lors du recensement, qui se fait présentement. Le simple fait de s'identifier est aussi une première dans l'histoire des Franco-Ontariens.

Alors, c'est quelque chose de très important pour la communauté francophone de la province de l'Ontario, et je crois que le gouvernement, par le projet de loi 76, remplacé par le projet de loi 125, le prend un peu à la légère. On ne mentionne nulle part, ni dans le questionnaire ni dans la campagne publicitaire, le fait que les données obtenues serviront à déterminer le nombre de conseillers scolaires des sections linguistiques, ce qui est très important puisque, réellement, le recensement devient le déterminant des représentants aux conseils scolaires de langue française. Les données de recensement au sujet de la communauté francophone ne pourront pas être utilisées aux fins du projet de loi sur la répartition des conseillers scolaires puisque la version française ne contient même pas les mêmes directives que la version anglaise au sujet de l'énumération des occupants.

De plus, ce qui inquiète l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario, c'est que le projet de loi 125 a retiré aux Franco-Ontariens le droit reconnu par la Cour d'appel de l'Ontario et par la Loi 75 de diviser le territoire et de répartir les conseillers scolaires de la façon la plus appropriée pour la communauté francophone.

1500

Je veux aussi exprimer les pensées de Marguerite Charette, présidente du comité consultatif de langue française de la région de York.

This comes from the York Region Board of Education and is signed by Marguerite Charette, president of their consulting group, and it reads as follows. Je lis en français:

«Suite à la réunion du comité consultatif de langue française de la région de York, tenue le 10 mai cette année, il a été résolu d'appuyer la démarche de l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario, l'AFCSO, en ce qui concerne la position vis-à-vis le projet de loi 125.

«Ce nouveau projet de loi cause des préjugés aux francophones et enlève des droits déjà acquis par la Loi 75.

«Par conséquent, nous nous objectons, à l'unanimité, à ce projet de loi.»

Alors, cela renforce la présentation de l'Association française des conseils scolaires de l'Ontario.

In summary, I believe a good deal of additional work must be done prior to having Bill 125 go to third reading and royal assent. I must tell the members that this weekend, even if May 12 was the final date for completing the enumeration papers, we still had some ads on radio and television telling the Ontario public that they should complete their enumeration forms and submit these to the enumeration office.

Quite obviously, the public of Ontario does not understand or appreciate the importance of these forms. I certainly would like to strongly urge the government to send this Bill 125 to full committee so that we can have a proper hearing throughout the province in order that people will not only understand this but will know indeed which school board, which trustees, will be representing them, particularly when the second official language is taken into consideration.

I look forward to participating in many other debates, and I do hope that Bill 125, in spite of its rocky beginning, will finally see the light of day and not be nearly as confusing as it appears to be to myself and to many members of this assembly.

Mrs. Cunningham: I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this bill in this House today. I would like to tell the members about my conversations with the two school board chairmen in London as well as with representatives from all of the other trustees' organizations. I should advise the members that they are extremely concerned about the election promise that was made last September, and that was that this legislation would not be enacted in an election year. It appears that this may be a possibility.

The trustees' groups and the board chairmen are most concerned that people who are electing

school board trustees across this province should have every opportunity to allow people to put their name forth, given the time, thinking and sincerity that it takes in order to let one's name stand. That seems to be somewhat impossible, given the time frame.

It is clear that while the minister has been to bat three times for trustee apportionment, he has still failed. The joint committee's final report was acceptable to most of the trustees across the province; however, in the usual way, he chose to disregard the work of this very knowledgeable and worthwhile committee and instead chose to heed the advice of the mandarins in the Mowat Block when he drafted the old Bill 76. That is of real concern and is very apparent to those of us who know how this government is operating.

In its new, improved form, Bill 125 is still fraught with errors. My major concern with the legislation is of course the time lines in place for its implementation, which I have already referred to. Why the government will not heed the advice of its own Advisory Committee on Municipal Elections and delay implementation of this legislation until 1991 is disconcerting. I quote recommendations 81 and 82 of the committee's report:

"Recommendation 81: The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario not enact any legislation affecting the local government electoral process within the six months immediately preceding voting day, in an election year.

"Recommendation 82: The committee recommends that no changes in the method of election or in the composition of municipal councils or school boards be permitted after January 15th of an election year."

There are a number of other concerns I have with this bill as well, and they were well articulated by my colleagues last week in this House. Specifically, my major concerns, besides the overriding concern with this legislation being in place for the 1988 municipal elections, are as follows.

First, I do not understand why the minister refuses to include cottagers in his definition of "electoral group." It is ironic that in taking great strides towards the goal of the committee in providing representation by population, the minister is still leaving large areas of jurisdictions of Ontario school boards with inadequate representation.

Another major concern I have with this legislation is how poorly it augurs with the other two parts of the municipal package the minister is

presenting. Members will be aware that under Bill 77, the list of municipal electors will not be provided until July 31. However, July 1 is the date the ministry has selected for the boards to determine their optimal size.

We believe school boards should have access to the enumeration data before having to make the decision to increase or decrease the total board size by one or two trustees. If the government insists on passing this legislation it must amend this date to September 1, otherwise boards simply will not know what numbers they should be looking at; they just will not be available to them.

My third concern is the one voiced by my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). He noted that in order to ensure that an adequate appeal process to the Ontario Municipal Board is in place, this bill would require amendments.

I would support an amendment to expand the right of appeal to include direct appeal by a board as opposed to the requirement that the school board has to request the council to make an appeal on its behalf. I would further support an amendment to expand the right of appeal to include direct appeal by an individual citizen.

While I am generally supportive of the initiative taken by the minister in removing trustee representation by assessment and moving to a form of representation by population, Bill 125 is still in need of many amendments.

The francophone trustees have further expressed concerns with Bill 125, as previously enunciated today. Although they support the previous concerns I have raised, they have two other concerns as well. First, they want the government to guarantee that the same number of school board trustees presently allowed to them under the Education Act will be maintained.

Their second concern is that there is a sentence that does not exist in the French enumeration questionnaire. I will quote it at this time: "List all residents and use second page as necessary." It does appear on the English form, however. Because the sentence is omitted, it is unknown how many people live in the house and therefore the trustee distribution will be inaccurate. We must know the exact number of residents per house to make this bill work.

I am slightly concerned about the process, and I am not sure just how to deal with it. I would be generally supportive of amendments that would alleviate these problems that I have talked about. I think perhaps I should table them in some form

this afternoon in order to fulfil my commitment to the trustee groups I have spoken with.

I expect this bill to be referred to committee; however, the specific amendments presented to this House would give the committee something to think about, if and when it begins or continues with its deliberations, which I hope would be very, very quick.

For me, the bottom line, of course, is that I can only support the implementation of this bill for the 1991 election.

1510

The specific amendments to Bill 125 that we will propose, after talking to the trustee groups, are:

First, paragraph 206a(7)6: "Where a board approves, by a resolution passed by an affirmative vote of three quarters of the members of the board in the year immediately preceding the year of a regular election under the Municipal Elections Act or before the 1st day of September 1988, an increase or decrease of either one or two in the number of members of the board, the number of members of the board shall be deemed to be so increased or decreased for the next two subsequent regular elections."

This bill has long-term effects. This amendment enables school boards to have access to the enumeration data before having to make the decision to increase or decrease the total board size by one or two members. Furthermore, it is unreasonable to expect boards to make the decision to increase or decrease the total board size without first having access to information on the total board size, as calculated by the 1988 enumeration data.

That would be the first amendment I would suggest.

The second one is to subsection 206a(1), in definitions, "'electoral group' of a board means a category of persons that are qualified to be electors in the area of jurisdiction of the board."

This amendment will include cottagers in the definition of "electoral group." Exclusion of cottagers from the definition of "electoral group" means that they will not be included in determination of the total board size or the allocation of trustees within the area of jurisdiction of the board. The exclusion of cottagers from the definition of "electoral group" will mean that large areas of the jurisdiction of the board will have inadequate representation.

My third and final amendment is to subsection 206b(2), the appeal process: "An appeal under this section shall be made by the council of any

municipality concerned or a board"—and I should add—"or an individual citizen."

These expanded rights of appeal include direct appeal by a board or a citizen, as opposed to the requirement that a school board has to request the council to make an appeal on its behalf.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity. I would hope that later on today this bill will indeed be referred to committee.

Hon. Mr. Ward: In wrapping up, I just want to once again go over some of the history of this particular initiative.

As members know, the purpose of Bill 125 is to replace a method of trustee election in this province that for many years has been based on assessment or on wealth as opposed to one that is based on population. Back in the late 1970s, the trustees of this province recommended that we look at changing this methodology.

Subsequent to that a report was issued, called *Representing People: Trustee Apportionment for Ontario's School Boards*. It was widely circulated throughout Ontario and received a tremendous amount of input from interested citizens as well as those directly involved in the governance of school boards in Ontario. Subsequent to that, the joint committee of the various trustee organizations was struck and it released its report last October.

I would remind the members of the House that shortly after the release of that report, Bill 76 was tabled in this House last fall; I believe it was in November. At that time I can honestly say the expectation was that, in recognition of the fact that 1988 was an election year, we would have some co-operation and that we could complete second reading and get the bill out to committee in very short order.

Unfortunately, because of other pressing issues that took up the time of this House, that was not to be the case. As a result, we relied very heavily on the written input that we received from many people in this province and many interested organizations, and also because we did have the opportunity to receive the recommendations of the Metropolitan Toronto school boards, the decision was made to withdraw Bill 76 and incorporate many of the changes that were suggested by various parties throughout this province, and at the same time to incorporate the provisions for Metropolitan Toronto. As a consequence, we now have before us Bill 125.

Much has been said about the issue of the representation of francophones. It is a concern that I hold very close to my heart, I want to assure members.

I think we all recognize that when Bill 75 was introduced it was done in recognition of the charter rights that francophones in this province enjoy and yet had never been able to exercise prior to the implementation of Bill 75. I think everyone in this Legislature—I certainly would hope everyone in this Legislature—recognizes that there were transitional provisions. There were no mechanisms by which to establish and identify French-language electors prior to the introduction of the recent enumeration bill. As a result, school enrolments were utilized as the methodology for making the determination as to the number of French-language trustees to be put in place.

Since that time we have come a significant distance. We now have a process by which every francophone elector in this province will, we hope, be identified. Consequently, those transitional provisions that were utilized in Bill 75 are no longer necessary.

Frankly, I think it is far more appropriate that French-language electors in this province have appropriate representation, because it is fine in the school board jurisdiction where there are a number of French-language services, it is fine in the jurisdiction where there are well-established programs for French-language education, but my concern is that there are many parts of this province that are well behind others in terms of the provision of those services.

You cannot have it both ways. You cannot make a determination on the basis of school enrolment and at the same time make a determination on the basis of population, and particularly a population with specific minority-language rights. Consequently, this bill, I think, is far more democratic and it far more appropriately reflects the realities of Ontario today. I think most reasonable people would understand that you cannot indeed have it both ways.

I would also like to comment on many of the references that have been made to representation in rural areas. During the course of the various committees that undertook a review of this particular issue over the years and in the report of the joint committee, it was strongly suggested that some provision be made so that communities of interest could be represented. Unfortunately, no one, to date, has been able to come up with an appropriate definition. How do we establish a community of interest? How do we ensure that small, sparsely populated rural communities have the kind of representation that they expect?

After a considerable amount of discussion, through the Ontario School Trustees' Council

and various other bodies and agencies, we came forward with a suggestion that any board could increase or decrease its population by up to two members. That perhaps does not identify a community of interest, but it does give boards a great deal of flexibility. It gives boards some role in self-determination in terms of structuring their particular organizations so that they do adequately affect the various communities that school boards must represent.

It has taken a long time to come this far. I would point out that the joint committee's recommendation was that this bill be put in place for the 1988 municipal elections. The history of this issue has been one of procrastination from the outset. I would much prefer that we could have been further along in this debate, and I would much prefer that we would have in place all of the rules for the coming election much sooner than this, but I can tell members, having run in three municipal elections, that I do not see any difficulty whatsoever in ensuring that the provisions of this legislation are indeed in place later on this spring or early into the summer, and I believe it will provide representation on a much sounder footing.

1520

I also point out that in the absence of this legislation, significant amendments to the Education Act would be required, a process that would have to begin today rather than be completed, because of the implications of Bill 30 and Bill 75 and the great many inconsistencies that thus remain within the various statutes covering trustee elections. Not acting is not an option in this regard.

I urge all members to support passage of second reading of this bill, and I look forward to their co-operation. I intend to move, upon second reading, a referral to the standing committee on social development.

The Deputy Speaker: Mr. Ward has moved second reading of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

The Deputy Speaker: In line with an agreement among the whips and the critics, Mr. Ward moves that standing order 63 be waived for the consideration of Bill 125 by the standing committee on social development and that the bill be referred to that committee.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Ms. Hošek moved second reading of Bill 108, An Act to amend the Rental Housing Protection Act.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The Rental Housing Protection Act is due to be repealed at the end of June. When it was passed as Bill 11, it had a very important function, which it continues to have, which is protecting the rental housing stock of Ontario against unreasonable conversions, demolitions and other methods which would take our precious rental housing stock out of the housing market. Last month I announced our intention to extend the act for one more year. The reason for doing that is what I would like to talk about today.

The act was passed in the summer of 1986 because of a crisis in the rental housing market. It was a time in which many units were being lost either through being converted or demolished or through being extensively renovated. In fact, what had happened by the summer of 1986 was that this process, which had been going on all along in the province, was significantly speeded up. The pace of conversions and demolitions was going very quickly, and there was very serious concern in the community about what would happen to rental housing stock in the province unless a stop were put to this massive conversion. The Rental Housing Protection Act was introduced as a temporary measure in order to restrict this loss and also to come up with a good way of making sure that we could both protect housing stock and protect tenants and owners.

At the time, the bill was passed as an emergency measure. There were discussions about it, but I do not think the kind of extensive discussions that are required in order to get a much more effective law were held at that time. One of the reasons for extending the act now is to give us the time to have the kinds of conversations which we need to have with many affected parties in order to draft a stronger and better law.

Since the law has passed, it has worked reasonably well all over the province. According to its rules, it has had a different effect in different parts of the province because, depending on the size of a municipality and the situation for rental housing in that municipality, there have been a variety of methods taken for dealing with the question of conversion and demolition.

However, as the numbers in our discussion paper indicate, the act has worked reasonably well. It has worked in fact remarkably well in those places where the pressure was the greatest. Members will be hearing a little bit later today about the effects of the act in Metropolitan Toronto.

We need, however, I believe, a more comprehensive and long-term policy for dealing with the matters that the Rental Housing Protection Act was meant to address and in fact does address. I think that our new policy must be more comprehensive, more practical and more creative. I think it must also do one very important thing, which is to reflect the concerns of the many people who have had to work with the act in the past two years.

One of the advantages we now have is a body of views of concerned people who have watched the act in operation, who have seen how it has worked across the province and who have contributions to make to our discussion about how to draft what I believe will be a more comprehensive and a better bill, a better way of dealing with the question of rental housing protection.

In the last while that I have been minister, I have met with many groups on a variety of topics of concern to people who care about housing. It is remarkable to me that almost every group I have met with, no matter what the main focus of our meeting, no matter what other issues we have discussed, has raised the issue of the Rental Housing Protection Act and the issues which the act was meant to address. They all have very strong views about what needs to happen now, they all have experiences to share about the way the law has worked and how it could be made better, and I think it is extremely important for us to take all those views into account and to learn from them in order to draft a stronger and better law.

The new act must protect both existing rental housing and the tenants who live there. At a time when people are finding it difficult to have the housing that they want and can afford, it is extremely important that people have as many options and choices as possible, and I think the Rental Housing Protection Act needs to address this concern. I think it must also provide suitable opportunities for home ownership, because the question about ownership of the stock is clearly of concern to significant numbers of people in the province. We must talk with them and see what they have to contribute to that debate.

In order to develop the legislation that we need, we need time to explore all the options that have been raised, and I must say that many and diverse and creative options have been raised by the many people with whom I have spoken about this act and the issues with which it deals.

We have issued a discussion paper. It is called *The Rental Housing Protection Act: Future Directions*. The paper is now being circulated to interested parties throughout the province, and what the paper does is deal with the variety of options we have available. It also gives people some information which all probably do not have, and that is the way in which this issue has been addressed in other jurisdictions, in other provinces, in other parts of the world.

We are not alone in having this concern. There are, I think, some things we can learn from the way other jurisdictions have looked at it and the kinds of solutions they have proposed, the kinds of things that have and have not worked elsewhere.

We are asking for written submissions on the options that are outlined in the paper, and any other views people have, by July 1. So we are really asking people to move quite quickly in gathering their thoughts and submitting them to us. We would like to be able to move quickly on this issue so that we have the kind of law that we need and enough time for discussion, but also a law to replace the Rental Housing Protection Act that is currently there in very good time. I consider that one-year deadline to be the most time that we would want, and I would like to move more quickly than that. That is the reason we put July 1 as the date for submissions.

One of the things I am cheered about is that, because of my discussions in the community and with the people who care about housing issues whom I have been meeting in the past number of months I am certainly aware that all of them have quite fully articulated positions on this. They really do know what they think they want to see and, therefore, are prepared to bring this forward to us.

I want, however, to make sure that groups that have not spoken with me or have not necessarily had access in this way are none the less able to put their views forward. I want to extend the act in order to give them the time to do that, and the July 1 deadline is very important to make that possible.

Based on this public response, which we will take very seriously—because the views are quite divergent and it is extremely important to hear them and to see what we can come up with to deal

with the concerns that are raised, the views that are divergent because people come at this from their own experience, from their own goals and values—it is going to be our task to find a way to reconcile those goals and values in the very best way we can, while keeping in mind the basic principles, that are outlined in my transmission letter which accompanies the paper, that are the framework within which we want to operate to come up with a better act.

1530

Based on this public response, as I have said, we are going to draft legislation for introduction later this year. I want to make sure that this happens in a timely fashion. That is the reason we asked for the extension of the law and the reason I am going to ask for the co-operation of all members of the House in bringing forward a new law in as timely a fashion as possible.

Extension of the current act will therefore give everyone who is concerned an opportunity to contribute to the discussion and to help us formulate some good ways of dealing with the issue of rental housing protection. I think it will give us the chance we need to do a better job.

I would now like to move second reading of Bill 108, to extend the Rental Housing Protection Act.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments on the minister's statement?

Mr. Cousens: I would like to ask a question. Who sets the time period when they have a challenge ahead? They had two years as a government and they made commitments to do certain things and now they come forward and say, because they want to give more people a chance to respond and ask questions and be involved, they have to have another year to do it. At the end of that year I have a feeling, not of great happiness but great sadness, that we are going to have the minister come in again—it might be another minister' it might be the same minister; it does not really matter because it is the government that is at fault in this—and say, “No, we have someone else to talk to.

The minister admits to talking to people. I do not think she admits to listening to them. She has had a chance over two years to do something and now she is saying, “We want another year to do it.” I have a sense of frustration for all the tenants and landlords who keep on saying, “One thing we get out of this government is talk and now we are getting the same old piece of legislation which is flawed and has lots of problems.”

I would love it if the minister could come forward and tell us for sure that something is

going to happen in two years, because we heard this government, and it was the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling), two years ago saying the same kind of thing, "Two years from now we are going to have the word out." Well, we are two years older, but also two years wiser, and have a sense of great sadness that the people of Ontario are being jerked around with Bill 108, which is really Bill 11.

Why does the minister not tell us who is really running the timetable? Are the people she is going to be talking to the ones who are doing it or is she really sincere in what she is trying to say?

The Deputy Speaker: Other questions and comments? If not, does the minister wish to respond?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I think one of the things we are now able to do, as a result of the time that has passed, is to have a very clear sense of how the act we have in place has worked. I think we are richer by that experience, and as a result we are going to be able to draft a better and more useful law. It is certainly up to the ministry to make this happen in a timely fashion, but it is also up to the other members of the House, whose help I ask in making it possible for us to come up with a good law and do it in the time we had planned for.

The Deputy Speaker: Do other members wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Breagh: We are going to oppose the bill. Much of what is in Bill 11 and is being extended in Bill 108 comes from discussions we had with the previous minister around a problem that began to occur about two or three years ago—at least, it came to public attention at that time—that is, a lot of the good rental stock in many of our communities was being removed from the rental marketplace.

Bill 11 was an attempt to address that. It was a bill that was put together in a minority House. There are some who would say that is one of the reasons it is flawed legislation, that in a minority House there is the opportunity, if I may say so, to kind of address problems from angles that the government did not exactly have on its agenda. So it is a bit of a blending of different ideas from different political parties, but I think the general agreement, the common ground, was very simply that it was true there was rental accommodation being removed from the marketplace and it was not being done in a way that was thought by many of us to be very productive.

There were concerns, and there still are concerns, about many older apartment buildings, for example, that are the last refuge of affordable

rental accommodation anywhere. Of course sitting on downtown urban land they would make a very attractive profit consideration for anybody who wanted to develop a condominium project. There are those who argue vociferously that Bill 11, and now Bill 108, prevents them from maximizing their profits.

It has been a strange bill. Essentially, my call would be that in its workings to date the bill works where the local council wants the bill to work and it does not work where a local council does not feel inclined to carry its share of responsibilities under that bill.

It is interesting that in the minister's own riding there is a kind of convoluted little project under way which is fairly typical, if I may say, of an older rental accommodation project where the person who bought it wanted to convert it to something else. The existing tenants were booted out on the street, new tenants were brought in and a proposal was made to them to go into a co-operative project. It is difficult to say who wins and who loses in this. I guess it all depends on who you are.

If you are the existing tenant in a building that is being converted to some other use, some other name, for the most part you are the victim in the process. You may turn out to be, if you happen to be the new tenant in that kind of place, a bit of a winner in that you may get some affordable accommodation. The clear winner is the developer, who has had his way in the process, is able to direct his financing and private property in a way he sees fit, makes as much money out of it as he wants and leaves. That is the good and bad of the experience I see in the previous Bill 11, and now it is being extended for a year as Bill 108.

It is a problem. Among those activists I have talked to, I will say quite frankly that most of them say they want the bill extended as a minimal protection, although the bill is currently full of a great many loopholes. There were many fears on their part that the bill would simply die and that there would be no protection anywhere.

If I could perhaps oversimplify a bit, to summarize their general feeling on the matter, that bill gave them something to hope for. It perhaps was not the best, most workable piece of legislation they had ever seen, but it was something and it addressed an issue that was very important to them. They felt, wrongly I guess now, that there was a hope the government would in fact move to exercise its options and put in place better legislation, but if that did not happen they made it clear to me that what they wanted was an extension of the bill.

In some ways, I suppose I will hear from some of them arguing that we should not be opposing this legislation, but I really have to say that in thinking through the process, it struck me that this government has had time to get its act together. It has had the time it needed to find out how people view this bill. I do not believe there are any secrets left. This is the somewhat ironic part of it: here we are in the middle of May and the minister is saying that by the beginning of July all written submissions on the proposals should be in; so they have 30 days to respond. K-Tel gives you better terms than that. The government could have given them a little bit more time.

She is right, though, in the sense that I do not believe there are a lot of people changing their minds out there about this. They have lived with this legislation for a couple of years. They know it, warts and all. They know where the loopholes are. Both sides do. The developers certainly do; they know how to exploit the bill.

There are some who would say there should not be any legislation of this kind on the books at all. If I could put the classic capitalist line here so that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), in his absence, will be represented in the chamber this afternoon, there are those who advocate that they have a clear right to do what they want with their private property and that tenants have no legal rights in the matter at all.

Of course, as a New Democrat that offends me somewhat. I believe tenants are people too. I believe they are constituents of Ontario and that they should have some legal rights and some protection under the law. That is what the original Bill 11 intended to do.

It is also true that many people are increasingly concerned—I certainly am—with the rental accommodation stock that is now available. As one goes around to tenants groups, particularly in Metropolitan Toronto, one is really struck by the fear that is there that in a short period of time, if something dramatic is not done, there will not be a place anybody of modest means can rent anywhere in a city like Toronto. We are coming closer to that reality day by day.

I hate to drag the obscenity of the rent review system as it is currently operating in Ontario into the picture this afternoon, but it is certainly a part of the problem. The rent review process is badly bogged down, so there is a tendency, I suppose, on the part of many who own rental accommodation to simply say, "This is a hopeless mess and I want to sell this property and get out from it." I know I have had a number of landlords say it in

somewhat blunter terms than that, but that is what they meant, that they are fed up with all this and they do not want to have anything to do with rental accommodation anymore and they want out.

1540

It is ironic, but that is almost verbatim what tenants are saying at the same time over the same process. It really is quite strange to have both landlords and tenants looking at the rent review process in Ontario and to have both sides saying: "This is a hopeless mess. This is never going to work. This does not stand a chance of functioning." I believe the importance of this kind of legislation then becomes even more critical.

Let me make one or two suggestions I really think should be followed. I am in no mood this afternoon to delay this legislation. If one looks at it, it would be kind of difficult to amend this act because it simply extends another act for a one-year period, but I do think there must be some openness to the discussion process.

I appreciate the minister would love to do this with her staff in her office, and having heard the arguments from both sides make up her mind on which option she would like to exercise. Somehow the Legislature must be brought into this. I do not really think it all that appropriate to send this bill out to committee for public hearings, but I do believe the position paper that was prepared by the ministry is ideal material to go to a committee for public hearings.

I suppose we could do that, if the ministry gets its act together, when the new legislation is brought forward; but let me make a suggestion for everyone's consideration. I think it would be useful for the minister to get whatever considerations people have about this bill in writing.

I really hope she does not get all hung up about July 1. I just put the plea that there are many groups out there who would like to respond to that challenge she has put out and will have a little bit of difficulty putting together a position paper for her consideration. It is true they probably have their opinion clear, but it is also true that many of them are not professional organizations and have a little difficulty in putting together position papers. I would urge a little flexibility on that.

I would like sometime, probably early this fall, to have a committee of the Legislature take the position paper and perhaps whatever written replies the ministry gets to this bill, and sit down and consider them because I think Ontario needs to explore some options. I know there are other jurisdictions I have read about that have attempt-

ed to deal with the same problem of diminishing rental accommodation, particularly at the lower end of the market, and that seem at least on paper to have found some solutions that have certainly escaped us.

The only concern I have is that I have been in politics long enough to know it is very dangerous to base your opinion on someone's article in a newspaper or on someone's written description of how well their program works. I think there is a need to establish some lines of communication with other jurisdictions to see whether their legislative responses to the same problem have really been more effective than ours.

I would say that in Ontario we have not been terribly successful, in my judgement. In the city of Toronto, for example, this legislation has met with some success only because the city of Toronto council wanted it to, but in other jurisdictions, even in Metropolitan Toronto, it has not been as successful because the local councils really chose not to implement the bill. So I think we need to do that.

There is one other thing I think needs to be introduced into the discussion. I was at a little forum with the mayor of Toronto two or three weeks ago. He said at that meeting what has become rather common knowledge now. He said there are about 3,000 empty apartments in the city of Toronto—3,000. That is a little hard to imagine. How is it that in the middle of a rental accommodation crunch, there are 3,000 empty units?

Well, the mayor said at that meeting that he did not quite know exactly where they were, but his assessment people and his records people were running the computers to try to identify where they were.

Certainly, I know where some of them are. Certainly, I know that since 1975 virtually every building that has gone up has been registered as a condominium but is in fact rented out as rental accommodation. I know that there are problems in registering those units. I know there is difficulty in lead times there. I am aware, having driven around the city a bit, that there are lots of empty condominiums that could be rented but are not rented yet.

I know of some other accommodations where people are getting a little ingenious about what actually is rental accommodation these days. I think most of our municipalities have had the occasion now to hear of somebody who bought a house in a neighbourhood and moved in with two-by-fours and four-by-eights over the week-

end, and all of a sudden a single-family home became accommodation for five families.

We are all trying to grapple with that problem. In its gentrified term that is called intensification. On Adelaide Street in Oshawa there is a little different term for that. We are trying to work our way through that, to determine how apartments are created, how they are defined and how we handle those problems.

We are in a myriad of difficult situations, I would say, highlighted by the fact, and it is somewhat sad, that the government has been unable in a two-year time frame to address itself to this bill other than to extend it. I think we have some difficulty in settling the basic conflict around a societal need for rental accommodation, which sometimes runs contrary to the individuals' rights to do whatever they want with their property. I know that is a difficult thing and I know the practical problems are immense.

People who are in those condominium units I just talked about are often not aware that they are condominiums at all. When they see a sign that says "apartment for rent," they do not bother to get a lawyer and inquire as to the exact title of the property. They assume that the sign on the front lawn means that is an apartment building, and that if the apartment is for rent, it is rental accommodation. That may or may not be true. Many of them kind of shudder on a regular basis as they receive their notices that this is in fact a condominium and it is now up for sale.

I want to compound it just a bit because I think it would be unfair to go through this exercise this afternoon without at least mentioning that there are provisions in the Residential Rent Regulation Act itself that are kind of hooked into this. Very simply, the provisions in the rent review act for economic loss mean that there is a repeated market there. According to Royal LePage, in its study, that market is a rather closed circle. There are not a lot of people participating in speculation in apartment buildings, but the speculation is very active.

I think we would have been better served if we had been able to get the new legislation in place now, and I regret very much that in a two-year time period we have been unable to do that.

I now want a legislative committee of some sort to go through the public hearing process, because I regret somewhat that this is turning into a very private chat with the minister, and that should not be. There is a Legislature here. We have an established committee process. It is certainly not unusual to table a discussion paper, and I take it that the options that were laid out by

the minister when she introduced this bill would be suitable material to be sent to a legislative committee. In an orderly way, perhaps at the beginning of the fall session, we could then have some public hearings where people could voice their opinions.

One of the problems we have with the process, as the minister outlined it today, is that it can be a very private process, and it should not be. There are issues here where there is a fiercely divided set of opinions on the matter, to put it politely. I do believe we need to hammer that out. We need to allow people the opportunity to voice, in a formal way before a legislative committee, what they think of extending this bill and what are the options that might replace it. I think we need to try, if we can, to search for some consensus on that. I think the problem is important enough that we should give it that much of an effort.

I also think that before the government introduces its new bill, it would be sensible for the government to make that a public process, to invite written submissions now, to provide for a public process whereby they can submit, discuss and argue a little bit with members of the Legislature before a legislative committee in the early fall and then proceed with new legislation shortly thereafter.

If the minister is asking for my cheap advice, and it is free this afternoon as it is most afternoons, that is what I would give her.

Mr. Fleet: It is worth what you pay for it.

Mr. Breaugh: The member has not paid for it yet and I doubt very much he will get a chance to in the future.

Mr. Mahoney: One way or another.

Mr. Breaugh: One way or another.

I think the bill, in one sense, is a minimal approach to a problem. I regret very much that the minister has not been able to do more than that in this time period. I do not believe it is because she did not have a chance to explore the options. I am sure that if she has had as much correspondence and conversation about this issue as I have, she understands fairly clearly what they are.

I would like to see us now get a little more organized in our response to that, so I would like to see us deal with this bill. I am not anxious that we go through it quickly, but it is a rather straightforward piece of legislation that should not require days and years of discussion here.

1550

We oppose it, basically on the grounds that we anticipated there would be a better response from

the minister than what we have here. It is minimal and I know there will be many groups who are grateful that, at least, the bill did not die and was extended in this form for another year. Many will look at this and say, "That gives us a little breathing space here."

But I am aware that the problem gets worse day by day. It does not get better, it gets worse and we, as a government in Ontario, are stumbling around a bit for a response to this. We are searching for answers. Other jurisdictions seem to have found some ways of preserving rental accommodation that is suitable for lower-income groups particularly. I guess the classic is this one: in my community, and in every other community, when developers look at an older apartment building, they very often look at it as a piece of land to be developed and to maximize their profits. That is still legal in this country and they still do that a lot.

But that is their perspective on the matter. Somebody who is a single-parent mother with a couple of kids may look at that as the only place in town where she can afford to pay the rent on that apartment. So that is the classic argument and councils are struggling with that because many councils, of course, believe in redevelopment, particularly in the downtown core of their community. They have these great schemes for redevelopment proposals that will renew the whole inner-city of whatever community they are in and they very often get caught in this kind of a conundrum.

In order to develop something that everybody thinks is wonderful, what do we do with these people who are living in that accommodation now? Many of us who are politicians by trade and have kind of knocked on all of these doors are sometimes appalled at the conditions under which people live. It is difficult, I suppose, for many of us to get some understanding of why anybody would want to live in an apartment like that. But the truth is that for many of them that is the only kind of reasonable accommodation they can get under any circumstances. So if we demolish that building, they are out on the street.

I suppose one solution that I have certainly been given by a number of people is that if the government of Ontario would only kind of fulfil its responsibilities and provide more financing for different kinds of non-profit housing, we would be able to kind of accommodate these people in better accommodations. The truth is, even with this year's budget, there is not much of a move or much of an inclination shown on the

part of the government to really do that in a substantive way.

So we are not having theoretical discussions about what the most desirable way is to develop a particular block in anybody's downtown core. We are dealing with the very practical problem of where these people live. That was the impetus for the beginning of this legislation, that there was a need to protect rental accommodation, that it was at the stage where it really was in crisis proportions in many of our communities and something had to be done to enforce that.

It is no secret, of course, that the legislation came out of considerations by various city councils as they dealt with the practical problem of a development proposal by someone in the private sector that would have a very negative impact on some of the people in that community. It is one of those things that is not easy to resolve.

The bill which Bill 108 replaces was not an ideal bill, not by a long shot, and I think anybody who has had any contact with the legislation would admit that. For starters, I guess the best way to put it is that it was a theoretical approach and a recognition that there was a problem there. The problem still exists. The problem will still exist for the foreseeable future, so extending this bill does something, but not very much.

I wish it had done more. I think the opportunity was in place here for the ministry to take a bold step. It is obvious to me that they are not really interested in bold steps these days and they have made a very tentative one in extending the bill. If the ministry had done a bit more, perhaps we could now proceed to exercise some of the options that we are aware of, to consider what other jurisdictions have done or tried to do and to attempt to examine how successful they have been in addressing the same problem.

I am just going to close with a simple plea. We oppose this bill for reasons that I have stated. I think it is now important that the issue itself gets out in public. I believe it is important that people be given the opportunity to make written submissions, but it is also important that a committee of the Legislature be charged with the responsibility of examining those options. I think we have identified most of the options that I can think of that might respond to the same particular set of circumstances.

I would like to see a legislative committee now take up the discussion paper or the policy paper, whatever you want to call it, hold a set of public hearings and compare what we are trying to do in Ontario with what other jurisdictions have done,

to see what can work; because the basic problem is one that is getting worse instead of better.

Although there will be in the next little while a glut of luxury condominiums for rent in downtown Toronto, that is of little use or comfort to somebody who is on a limited income. To be a little more precise about it, the problem really is that there are many senior citizens, for example, in older apartment buildings here and all over Ontario who are quite happy where they are. It might not be the world's greatest accommodation, but it is their home and they have lived there for some period of time.

Through a variety of means, either through initiatives on the part of someone who has just bought the building or through rent review, their home is being threatened. Although they are living in rental accommodation and although they understand they do not own the joint, it is where they live. They have lived there for a long period of time, they are on fixed incomes and anything that kind of jeopardizes that scenario threatens them.

They are probably the people who are least able to defend themselves, because if they are on a fixed income they are not in a position to go to war over what has happened to their apartment building, and that really is what is demanded. If there is a major flaw that is being extended here now, I would identify it as simply that.

This bill extends an act which essentially demands that people who are affected by it go to war. They have to get organized, they have to go and appear in front of their city council, they have to be prepared to do battle for some lengthy period of time. For some of them it involves the expenditure of moneys to hire lawyers and people to advise them, because they are in an unfamiliar set of circumstances now.

The extension of the bill has a bad side. It extends that process for another year. As the minister said in her opening remarks today, and I take her at her word, I hope it does not take a year to see the government's response to it. I hope it can be finalized in a more open, accessible way. I am making that pitch and I hope she would expedite it as quickly as she can.

In my personal timetable, if she has set out that by July 1 she wants the written submissions, I would like to see a legislative committee take up the matter in the early fall and see a legislative response by the end of the fall session.

I wish her well in her endeavours. I know that this is not an easy problem to resolve, that it has been around for a while, but it is one of those things that is at crisis proportions in some

communities. I wish her response to it had been a little bit more than to simply extend a bill that has some very serious flaws in it for a year, perhaps less. I hope that she would now move to expedite that process, to get it out into the open, to let us have the arguments, to argue out the different points of view and to come to some solutions.

I suspect that on this kind of legislation we are not going to get consensus between a developer who wants to tear down the building and a tenant who wants to live there. That is unlikely, but we can at least hear both sides of the argument and see if there are any solutions that are a little more workable than what we are proposing here. The problem is a serious one and, unfortunately, the response has not been a very substantive one.

Mr. Cousens: The bill we are reviewing is one that was reviewed and discussed two years ago. It is odd that two years have passed and nothing has happened, except that the problem has become worse. We now have 1,000 units available for people who want to rent accommodation in Metropolitan Toronto. It is no better anywhere around the province.

It is worse for a number of reasons. It is worse because we are talking about a government that has lost the trust of the developers and private investors, those who might otherwise put dollars into rental accommodation. The private money is important money when it comes to building accommodation. Yet now, what with government interference, government meddling and a breach and breakdown of the faith and trust that can exist between those private investors and government, we are seeing the problem becoming worse and worse.

I do not think the government has much choice but to introduce this bill again, and next year it might introduce it again, and again and again. I do not have the confidence that the government and the minister have that in fact this is the last time we are going to see this bill, unless the government comes in with an omnibus bill and it is there as another segment of it.

1600

Unless it has a strategy and a long-term plan to meet the housing needs in Ontario, as a government it is going to continue to do things this way: it is going to be done piecemeal and it is going to be done at the expense of everybody, because there is not a winner right now in Ontario when it comes to housing.

We need to have a spirit of co-operation that exists between the government and private investors. There needs to be a spirit of co-operation and trust between the government and

the tenants. That has deteriorated to such a low level now that I have great fears we are not going to see it reversed. I do not see anything happening that the government is now doing that is going to change the vacancy rate in Metropolitan Toronto, now at 0.1 per cent, and I do not see any strategies or plans that can help rectify the problem.

All we have to do is go back a very short period of time and we have great quotes from the Premier (Mr. Peterson). On May 6, 1986—that is just over two years ago—he said to the *Toronto Star*: “The legislation was introduced as a short-term measure to combat the ‘real crisis in terms of affordable housing’ in Ontario and will be replaced with a new housing policy after two years.”

What is his word worth? He said, over two years ago, very clearly, very precisely, that within two years a new housing policy would be developed. It is now 24 months later and there is still no housing policy. We have a document and there is some thinking and talking going on. The premise on which this government was elected last September 10 has a lot to do with the commitments and promises which were made that led up to that election, and here is one of them in which it is a total failure: a failure in trust, a failure in action, a failure in realizing some steps.

I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it is not only myself who is disappointed. I think everyone who is involved with the housing crisis now in Ontario shares in that disappointment. I have with me a statement that was made and it explains it rather well. This person makes his money on the housing problems we are having, but he does it in a way which really merits the respect of anyone who is watching what is going on within the industry. He puts out a regular monthly analysis on Canadian housing problems. It is Clayton Research Associates. Mr. Clayton also has a PhD, but Dr. Frank Clayton, president of Clayton Research Associates, asserts in his April edition:

“The current rental housing policy thrusts of the Ontario government, e.g., the continuation of rent control, the prohibition of removal of existing rental buildings from rental stock and the provision of subsidies to stimulate rental construction, are not effective responses to the two most important rental housing problems facing the province; that is, insufficient new rental housing construction and the existence of a significant number of renters paying an excessive

proportion of their income to secure adequate accommodation.”

If the Ministry of Housing could do something to address those two major concerns, we would not need to have this kind of legislation coming forward again and again in the House. If the Legislature could look at some bills, meaning legislation, that will help increase the stock of affordable housing in this province, then we would be doing something worth while.

I think that has to be one of the biggest frustrations any legislator could ever have; that is, just to be doing the same thing over and over again with the problem getting worse at the same time. I have no fun in being here today to talk about a bill which is just a repeat performance of two years ago.

If, in fact, there was something happening to build that rental stock, to build a relationship with those who have the money which could help build it, so it is not just the province that is doing it, then we would be on our way to a road to recovery for those people who are in crisis right now because they do not have a place to live. Then the rights of those who own the property, those who are the landlords, would not necessarily be taken away through Bill 108.

We are stuck with Bill 11; we are stuck with Bill 108; we are stuck with it because we are stuck with a government that does not have a plan or a vision or a dream to take us forward out of the slump the housing market is in right now for renters in Ontario; and it is serious. The single most serious crisis in the province today is our housing crisis.

The second part of the problem that Dr. Frank Clayton refers to is where renters are paying an excessive proportion of their income to secure adequate accommodation.

I know the Ministry of Community and Social Services has also delayed coming out with its report that is going to address the needs of many people who are living on welfare and home support, but at least I am confident there is going to be something coming in the near future, because the minister has had some good people working on it.

The problem with the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) is that I do not know who is going to work on this report once she gets it. I am sympathetic to the view that the Legislature could well form a committee to sit down and analyse and assess some of the options that are open to us, because even though the Minister of Housing says, “Yes, we are doing a lot of listening and we are trying to gather all this

input,” I am not satisfied that she really understands or is prepared to take the kind of action of a government that cares and a government that has made a commitment and is really doing something about it.

So we are faced with a situation where there are no winners. The government will push through this legislation in spite of opposition, yet we have to face up to some of the real pitfalls that are part of what is the Rental Housing Protection Act.

First, let us just look at some of the problems that are part of this bill. Bill 108 makes it mandatory for all municipalities with populations of over 25,000 to deal with all changes to rental stock, whether or not a problem exists in that municipality. There are some places without rental problems, but unfortunately they have other problems. They have huge unemployment and they have situations that are very difficult for them to handle. When you have a government that just comes out with blanket legislation that touches on every municipality over 25,000, it just adds to that overload, that bureaucratic red tape that some municipalities should not have to be cutting through or bothering with.

If only the government could bring some common sense to its legislation. They have had two years to at least look at this bill and to make some changes to it, but it comes out identical. All we have is a new date on it, so that Bill 108 is just a continuation of Bill 11.

During two years, you would think they would have had a chance to improve some of those bureaucratic nightmares for some of those municipalities. They live with it, they add a little of their own bureaucracy in each of those municipalities and there is someone who spends a certain amount of time every week who has to make sure the municipality fulfils the terms of what Bill 11 was and now Bill 108 is, that is the cost of government.

If a business ran that way, by saying everybody has to get a free this or everyone gets something of that, it makes no sense. There is already a tremendous workload for everybody in this province who is working in different levels of government, but here you have legislation that just continues to add to it, and there is not a need for that.

Why does the act treat both legal and illegal units in the same way? It treats legal units and illegal units equally, which can result in municipalities supporting the retention of rental units that are guilty of zoning violations. Here we are talking about a government that has had two

years to do something. They have not even looked at the impact this is having in some of those municipalities.

Bill 108, with its sole focus on salvaging Ontario's rental supply and protecting tenants, denies individuals, including those who have been good tenants for several years, the right to buy their own apartments or their own units. There are many people in this city who would like to be able to buy that stock of accommodation in which they are now living. We should try to find ways of making that happen, if we can. That is part of the whole failure of the government to come up with a comprehensive plan to address the needs of people who have a housing concern or a housing interest in this province.

1610

Some people do happen to have the money to buy one of those units. I was at a session a couple of weeks ago in which I saw at first hand more and more of the problems that these people are having. There are many people who are paying less than 25 per cent of their income towards rental, and some of those people have stored up enough money that they could buy their place, if it were allowed to be put on the market.

Why does Bill 108, or Bill 11 as it now is, not have that option in it for them? There should be rights for people, and what we are seeing here with the government is again an abrogation of rights. It is the government cutting into the rights of landlords to do with their own property what they want to do and the rights of tenants who are renting property from those people to do what they want to do.

Bill 108 does nothing to really address the crisis in affordable housing. It only perpetuates the housing crisis by discouraging private sector involvement in the rental housing market and by encouraging the deterioration of existing rental stock. I wonder how many of us have seen some of those units that have not had any meaningful repairs for a long time. The garbage chute does not work, the windows do not close tightly, there is vandalism in the building, there is a stench to it and the garbage is not picked up on a regular basis. Some of these problems can be addressed through the complaint process, but may I suggest that the problem is a far deeper one?

It is one in which those who own the properties have lost interest. They have lost interest because they know that the government is going to continue to push them around. Who suffers in the long term? The tenants. And the housing crisis

begins to take on a scale of problem that this province has never seen. It is a crisis.

The government has not done anything to deal with the conversion problems and has only passed the issue to the municipalities for them to solve. The government could and should find solutions, rather than a scapegoat, to ease the housing crisis.

I know that very recently the Minister of Housing met with some of the mayors of the Metropolitan Toronto area and surrounding region and was trying to pass the buck on to them. Hopefully, everyone will respond to this. I know that municipalities are doing everything within their power, but they too share the kinds of feelings I have, that there is not much hope that there will be co-operation or help from this government.

The words are good, but not the acts that follow up. It is like the words when the Premier said, two years ago, "Within two years we will have a policy." We are still waiting and we are bringing in the bill again. Those are the kinds of words that people are getting sick and tired of. That is one of the reasons this government really is, I think, starting to slip. Certainly the bloom is off the flower. People are starting to realize that the words and the talk have been cheap but the actions and the follow-through have been nonexistent.

In his 1988 budget statement, the Treasurer said that housing is not just a government responsibility but that the private sector must also do its part in meeting affordable housing needs. Yet by retaining this bill, by retaining the kind of intent that is behind it, what this government is doing is turning off the housing market. It has had a huge negative effect on private sector involvement in helping to address and respond to the housing crisis we have. The government has not done much, and now the private sector, which could do much, has been totally and furiously upset.

This bill is an inadequate piece of legislation because it has not effectively preserved decent rental housing, nor has it added to the supply of rental stock in Ontario. It has had the reverse effect of forcing property owners to utilize loopholes to convert rental units to more profitable ventures.

I was surprised today. I came and I thought the Premier was going to look at this as a chance to defend why nothing had been done for two years. I could not believe how flimsy an answer he gave, how fickle an approach he took to the housing situation we have with the Rental

Housing Protection Act. All he says is, "We keep reviewing." I quote: "I can tell my honourable friend that we are reviewing all aspects of housing policy, including that one," the Rental Housing Protection Act.

It is talk, talk, talk, and there is no action. I am not satisfied that this government will act on it. I am not satisfied that, within two or three years from now, the accommodation rate in Metropolitan Toronto will be any better than it is today.

One wonders what one can do. First, many municipalities in Ontario feel the bill should be allowed to sunset and that the Ministry of Housing could set up a joint—it could well be members of the Legislature in a committee or it could be the Association of Municipalities of Ontario—planning group to organize and develop effective ways to preserve rental stock in Ontario.

I have a copy of the brief that has been released—The Rental Housing Protection Act: Future Directions—and there indeed will be opportunities for people to respond to it. There is going to be a chance for this government to do something if it wants to. The question is, why do they not involve the whole Legislature in that process? Why not have a committee of the Legislature which can begin to assist the minister in responding to this crisis?

I would like to see a statement come from this government and from this minister that talks about some of the traditional rights of property owners. What are their rights? When are their property rights going to be returned to them? If property owners or private investors knew they had some rights before the law, the government of this province, then we would be inclined to see more of them putting money forward.

The minister should come forward with a statement and a policy and maybe some way of proving to them that this government is prepared to work with the private investor to build that kind of stock we need. There is nothing more important than to have a government that creates an environment for both private enterprise and government to be working effectively together. That is what the government should be doing: working with the private sector to come up with solutions and ideas to improve and build rental housing stock in Ontario.

If the government continues to work alone to come up with solutions, we will continue to have a second-rate, government-run industry that excludes housing professionals and experts. The government is heading towards monopolizing a business it really does not know. Why not let

those qualified in the private sector, the builders and the contractors, who know the housing business, do their job and assist in solving housing problems?

That would then mean the government has to listen, the government then has to be involved, the government has to somehow have a trusting relationship that begins to lead in new directions.

In the meantime, we stumble. We continue to stumble over the same mistakes and the same promises and the same words we heard two years ago. I look forward to the day when we will begin to see some action that begins to put some real truth into the words, when people hear the Premier of the province saying, "In two years from now, our government will come forward with a comprehensive housing policy." He said that and he has not done it. Now the Minister of Housing says, "Well, we're going to talk some more and we're going to listen some more," and that is no guarantee that they are going to act some more and that they are going to come up with some comprehensive plan.

How does one measure success like that? There is not a measurement low enough to really describe the pain and anguish of those people who cannot find housing stock in the larger urban areas. That is where it is painful. When one sees them, talks to them and understands what those problems are, then one knows that the policies this government has enacted are not working.

The fact that this government does not have a vision or a dream for the future is further grief for those people because they have no sense of knowing what is going to be done or how it is going to be done, or if in fact there is a solution at the end. There is no light at the end of the tunnel.

1620

For many people right now who are in search of that kind of housing, there is no solution in sight. So what we have today is a bill we are stuck with. When our party votes against it, assuming we get to it some time because I know we are going to have more words, the fact is that it will carry. It will be in effect, and in two years or a year from now, we are going to be doing the same thing again.

I have zero confidence in this government to fulfil the commitments that are being made now that by next year we are going to see something different. It just will not happen unless the government involves all parties in coming up with a solution—all parties being the builders, the tenants, political parties. Take out the partisanship and get on with the real job.

We have had great hopes from this government on housing and they have not materialized. Out of the election promise of last year, the Premier said, "We will have 102,000 new, affordable rental units for people in Ontario by the end of 1989." Where are they? We get promises of a few here and a few there but we are not even close to having them in place by the end of 1989. Meanwhile, people are suffering.

People will continue to suffer in this province when all they get is words and they do not get the kind of action that results in the construction of new units, the construction of affordable units, the creation of opportunities for people to be able to raise their families and to live in peace and harmony in communities. They want to work in the community and they cannot do that now. They have to commute from long distances.

It is not a problem; it is a crisis. I do not hear anything that is being said in this House by the Minister of Housing or by this government that gives me a sense of hope for the future that we will see a solution to the housing crisis in this province. So we will wait and we will see, we will talk and we will look, and a year from now we will be back doing the same kind of thing. It is not a happy moment for Ontario when we are doing again this year what we did two years ago.

Yet we will find pleasantries to make, such as "Oh well, we are doing something." But all the efforts this government has made have been words, not action. Actions do speak louder than words.

Mr. Callahan: We've got to rectify what you guys didn't do all those years. It has taken two years just to clean things up.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Mr. Cousens: Madam Speaker, we have touched a nerve. Some people just suddenly woke up. It is amazing that the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) has suddenly come alive. The member is here so that his constituents know he has participated. What have you done to help with the housing crisis and the housing problem in this province? Sweet nothing. All you can do is come into the House and object when someone is trying to come up with some of the solutions that are being looked for. It starts with having a working relationship with people. It starts with building a trust.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I remind all honourable members that they are to let the member who has the floor continue without interruption, and the honourable member who

has the floor should address his remarks through the Speaker. Please continue.

Mr. Mackenzie: Don't get side-tracked by the keys to the Don jail there.

Mr. Cousens: That is right. One has to understand.

The Globe and Mail editorial board on May 7, 1986, said, "The sense of proportion that should accompany any such intrusion falls to Ontario's shortsighted fixation on controls." What they were talking about there is that here is a government that, instead of coming up with a strategy and a plan, comes up with a shortsighted view, as it did two years ago with Bill 11. Since then, the housing stock, the rental stock, in this province has deteriorated. There is less and less.

They are fixated on the idea: "We will maintain rent controls. We will do the very things that Dr. Frank Clayton talked about." But they are not prepared to do the two things that really count, that is, increase the number of affordable units and do something about the people who are paying in excess of 25 per cent or 30 per cent of their income towards their rental accommodation. So we will continue to have bills like this.

I will oppose this bill. I oppose the lack of spirit and thrust for the future that is forthcoming from this government and this Ministry of Housing. I can only hope that the day will come when we will see a new government that will come forward with new policies and a new thrust, and that will start building a relationship between private enterprise and government and not just shut the door on it and tell it to disappear and go away.

Mr. Mahoney: I find it curious, listening to the honourable member and to the member before him, that they have decided, obviously as a party—I guess it is another free vote on that side of the House—that they are going to oppose the extension of this bill. The logic, the reason for it seems to be that they feel there should be time to take this bill out to a legislative committee. That is on one hand. On the other hand—

Mr. Cousens: On a point of order: That is not it at all.

Mr. Mahoney: I am sorry, I heard it suggested by the honourable member. Hansard can be checked.

They want to take it out to committee, on the one hand; on the other hand, they want an opportunity for the private sector. I believe the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) talked about involving the private sector. Obviously, the private sector has to be involved. Obviously,

housing is not something that can be unilaterally solved by one level of government.

I would like to read, for the honourable members' interest, from the Toronto Star of May 15, from an article entitled "Housing and the Feds." I quote:

"More than a year ago, Queen's Park announced its 'housing first' policy and urged the federal government to respond in kind. Under that plan, all surplus provincial lands are considered first as sites for affordable housing, then, if determined to be inappropriate, are sold at market prices. That money is placed in a special housing fund and used to build low-cost housing elsewhere.

"By continuing to sell federally owned parcels on an ad hoc basis...Ottawa makes a mockery of its claims that it is helping to build 'record-breaking numbers' of houses in this province. Clearly, we need the co-operation of Ottawa, of the cousins of the member for Markham in Ottawa, who are totally ignoring their responsibility to work with this government, with the private sector and with the housing corporations.

The housing crisis, I would add in my six seconds remaining, is in social housing. It is the community of the member for Markham that does not even have a social housing program, not Peel.

Ms. Bryden: I felt when the member for Markham was telling us about the inadequacies of Bill 11 that he was also telling me about what is happening in my own riding. I am discovering the same inadequacies and the same attempts to wage guerrilla warfare on tenants under this bill in order to get them to depart and leave a vacant building when the Rental Housing Protection Act will not apply. That is why Bill 11 has become a failure in stopping the erosion of affordable housing and that is why amendments will be needed.

But we must have what I think my colleague the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) suggested, a thorough study of the amendments that are needed, and the loopholes must be closed through a legislative committee in the next year. We do not want just another stopgap bill again next year, if this one should go into effect.

I have had housing units where the owners obtained vacant possession by the most reprehensible and illegal methods of intimidating tenants, leaving the houses boarded up while tenants still lived there and things of that sort. That is why we need a study of the whole question of how to stop this conversion and demolition that is going on.

I sat on the planning committee when the Planning Act went through in 1984 under the previous government and we were not able to get strong enough demolition and conversion rules in that, so it is time to review that as well.

1630

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I just want to speak briefly to make a couple of comments.

First, I want to support the member for Markham and his very thoughtful presentation. I listened in my office with a great deal of interest. That member has kept our caucus fully informed of all the housing developments in this province. He has brought to our attention the fact that the Thom report was presented, but the minister has not had the integrity to bring it forward and have it discussed in detail. There are many items in that report that would be of interest. I wonder why the government appoints a commission. If they do not like what they see in the commission's report, then they forget about it. That is not the way the minister usually acts, as a member of cabinet, is it?

I would just like to say that the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) seems to be knowledgeable in all fields of expertise, and in the housing and social policy fields especially. I wonder how they are able to survive back in Mississauga without him. Maybe after the next few years he will consider going back there, because he would certainly be better off in that environment than here.

I would just encourage the members opposite to pay attention to our critic, the member for Markham, because there are a lot of good points to be made on the housing problems we have in this province.

Mr. Villeneuve: But they're not listening.

Mr. Callahan: I always listen to the member for Markham, because he is constantly reminding us, in his very positive speeches and the way he addresses this whole issue and asks the minister and the government to join hands in co-operation with him, and yet his speech is totally full of statements of doom and gloom. One would think that a positive attitude, first of all, is required.

In addition to that, he appears to have a view of conservatism that is much like that of his cousins in Ottawa, who create a \$500,000 capital-gains shelter that in fact has assisted people in flipping houses and increasing the price of them. The Minister of Finance in the federal party in Ottawa has really just fuelled the flames.

When he speaks about Peel region, I would stack up Peel region's approach and its success in

terms of creating housing against any one of the ridings in this province; so the member for Markham does not know of what he speaks, as is—I would not say as usual, but certainly he is misinformed about the facts of Peel region, because we have contributed to it.

In the final analysis, I have to gather from the member's comments—and it must represent his caucus's view—that we should eliminate rent controls immediately, tomorrow, and leave all these people who have been protected by them out in the cold. If that is what he is suggesting, then I certainly do not subscribe to his view of conservatism, which does not look after the people who need the protection most.

Mr. Cousens: I would like to thank the member for Wellington (Mr. J. M. Johnson) for his kind remarks. He really touches on one of the major truths, and it has to do with the Thom report and the failure of this government to deal with that report and to come forward honestly with some recommendations through public discussion, where there would be a full opportunity for people to understand ways of dealing with this whole problem, the affordable housing crisis in Ontario. I commend the senior member of our caucus for his words, and I respect very highly what he has to say.

I was also very impressed by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden), who talks about the guerrilla warfare that goes on within Metropolitan Toronto. I think the guerrillas are opposite us; they really are. The guerrillas happen to be the government and the Liberal MPPs who are closing their minds to what is going on within Metropolitan Toronto and within those areas where people need housing.

I hear the kind of gobbledegook that comes from the member for Brampton South. He talks about me having gloom and doom. Well, I sure do. As long as there are people in this province who do not have a roof over their heads, then we have to fight for them. If the government is not going to fight for them, we will.

I think that is where it all starts from. You do not just take it lightly; you do not just cast it aside. You come in here and you just think it is all nice and rosy. We have a roof over our heads in the Legislature, but there are many people in this province who are looking to us in this House to come up with that solution, and the government is not doing it.

I hear the member for Mississauga West. I have not heard him speak so stupidly before, because what he started referring to from my speech, I did not say.

This legislation will pass today, but what needs to be done is that there needs to be a real focus on housing in this province. Why does the minister not then open it up so that there is legislative debate on it, so that we will have a committee of the Legislature and we will go and look at the problem and together we will come up with some solutions?

I am prepared to work with anybody, even those guys, to try to find that solution.

Mr. Kanter: I rise to support Bill 108, which extends the Rental Housing Protection Act for a one-year period while the minister consults on improvements to this act.

I heard the member for Oshawa, a member of the New Democratic Party, a party which sometimes purports to speak for tenants. I heard him express a number of concerns, many of which are quite valid. He suggested that there was a loss of affordable housing and that the loss of affordable housing was a major problem, not just in Ontario but in other jurisdictions as well. He admits that the Rental Housing Protection Act is a response to this problem. He concedes that the bill has been quite effective in those municipalities that have taken it seriously.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Oh no, he doesn't; that's not true.

Mr. Kanter: Those are the words. I would remind the honourable member, who may not have been present, that it was his colleague who said, "The bill works where the local council wants it to."

He admits that most activists want to have the bill extended—and I presume he might speak to some tenant activists from time to time as well as to other activists—and he predicts that there may be a time where no person of modest means can rent within Metro, which are all good, sound, valid reasons for extending this bill.

But what is the position that he takes? He takes the position that he is opposed to the bill. Why is he opposed to the bill? Well, perhaps he did not like the consultation process. Perhaps he did not like some technical, theoretical detail of the legislation.

Let me tell the members the practical consequence of the position adopted by my colleague opposite. In opposing this bill, and if this bill were not to be extended, then hundreds of thousands or millions of tenants in this province would be at risk.

I heard his colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine suggest that amendments will be needed, and yes indeed, amendments may be needed, but let me tell members that you need a

bill, you need something in place to have amendments to; and if this bill lapses at the end of June, as it is now scheduled to do, there will be nothing, there will be no protection. There will be no protection for tenants, be they in Metro or be they in the rest of the province.

I heard the comments of the member for Markham. I see he is not here at the moment but—

Mr. Cousens: I'm here, watching.

Mr. Kanter: He is watching? OK, I am being watched.

I heard the implication of his comments during question period that no one supports Bill 108. Let me tell the members that the tenants in my riding and 70 per cent of the constituents in my riding—70 per cent of those in housing units in my riding are tenants—support this bill. They are very concerned about the problems that occurred before this bill was passed.

1640

Let me assure the members that the city council of Toronto supports the extension of this bill. I have a report here from the housing action committee recommending that the committee recommend that city council request the provincial government to extend the Rental Housing Protection Act for at least one year beyond June 30, 1988.

I point out that a number of members of Toronto city council—not all of them, I would hasten to add, of the New Democratic Party persuasion or even of the Liberal persuasion—are in support of extending this bill. I would point out, particularly to the member for Markham, that Alderman Michael Walker, who is the chairman of the rental housing protection sub-committee of the city council of Toronto, has called for the extension of the Rental Housing Protection Act. Not only does Michael Walker identify himself as a Progressive Conservative; some might say he would be to the right of some of the existing members of the Progressive Conservative caucus, and he is strongly in support of retaining this bill.

I notice that both critics referred to this as a housing crisis. Let me assure you, Madam Speaker, this housing crisis would be much, much worse if this bill were defeated and tenants were abandoned. Perhaps some members were not here several years ago when this bill was introduced. I was not here in this forum. I was a member of the council of the city of Toronto. I know my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Reville) was on the city of Toronto council as well.

I would like very briefly to review three of the kinds of problems we had. There was demolition of rental housing buildings, as in the Bathurst and Eglinton district of what is now my provincial riding of St. Andrew-St. Patrick. There was the proposal to convert many thousands of residential units in the city of Toronto. There were schemes called "equity co-ops."

I happen to be very familiar with one of these, where people were sold units or interest in buildings that already had tenants in them. Sometimes they were extremely surprised and sometimes quite angry to find there were, indeed, tenants in possession of those units who expected to stay there. The tenants who were in possession of the units, paying their rent quite legally and quite lawfully, were even more surprised that, under the legislation then in place or without the Rental Housing Protection Act, there was no protection against these kinds of difficulties. There were very great difficulties caused in the hallways of some of these buildings as a result of some of the things that occurred before this bill was introduced.

It has been suggested that this bill has not been effective. My experience is primarily in the city of Toronto, and I would say that in the city of Toronto, the bill has been quite effective. It has been effective in slowing the rate of loss of moderate-rental housing in this city in a very substantial way.

From December 1980 through June 1986, some 11,900 rental units—on average, on a yearly basis, 2,160 units—were removed from the city's moderate-rental housing stock through demolition, conversion to condominiums, equity co-ops and furnished, short-term rentals masquerading as apartment-hotel units and luxury renovations, all of which required the eviction of existing tenants.

During the 20 months since the Rental Housing Protection Act has come into effect, the city of Toronto has received a number of applications. They have resulted in the removal of 225 moderate-rental units and in almost all cases these were transitional units, where the application was made before the act came into effect. In other words, the act has been very effective, at least in the city of Toronto, in slowing, almost entirely stopping, the loss of rental housing.

I would also point out that this bill has had a positive impact in many other ways. There are a number of creative proposals which have been put forward that would allow the demolition of existing rent-control units, but would include

replacement, which would include additions of new buildings, which would include the benefits in some cases of conveying a building in a complex to a nonprofit co-op.

I think this bill has had the desired effect, not only in the city of Toronto but also in other parts of the province, of preserving the existing rental accommodation.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would ask all members to keep their conversations down as much as possible. I am having difficulty hearing the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Mr. Kanter: Madam Speaker, I will try to speak more loudly.

I rise in support of this bill because I think the preservation of existing rental housing is an important component in a housing strategy, along with the other components the minister mentioned. I think this bill has played an important role for the time being. I think it is important that it be extended so that we can pursue methods of improving it. I would not suggest for a moment that the bill is perfect in this form.

I suggest it is a very important part-component of our housing program, and I urge those members opposite, who I believe are pursuing very irresponsible courses of action, to reconsider. I urge that all members consider supporting this bill while we pursue methods of improving our means of retaining rental accommodation, which are extremely important to many constituents, not just in my riding, of course, but throughout Ontario.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Just very briefly, I must say, after listening to the member, it is with a bit of regret that I hear these members from Toronto, who think that if something is effective in Toronto, the rest of the province should just follow suit and the rest of the province is the same as Toronto.

There are other communities in this province, there are other city councils in this province, and there are very clear examples in other communities where this legislation has not worked, where perhaps some members of city councils are not as informed of housing issues as some members of the Toronto city council are.

It really bugs me when I come to Toronto to the Legislature and hear members from downtown Toronto make assessments of legislation and programs that should apply all across Ontario, as if we are all the same. I do not think the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick has any idea how this legislation has worked outside of Toronto. I

doubt very much whether he has looked at my community, the city of Windsor, where city council has actually converted more rental units to condominiums than have been built in that community. That is exactly what has happened under Bill 11 and under this bill that he wants to extend without strengthening to protect tenants in this province.

I point out that one of the people who has been crucial in the conversions and the kicking-out of tenants from reasonable rental accommodations in Windsor while they are being converted is the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M. C. Ray), who was a member of city council and voted in favour of condo conversion when he was on city council before he came to this place. I suggest to the downtown member from Toronto that he might want to talk to his colleague and find out why people like the member for Windsor-Walkerville did not understand Bill 11 and did not follow the principle of Bill 11.

Mr. Cousens: It is good to hear from the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick. He is consistent, because two years ago he was in support of this. He is quoted in the Toronto Star.

Mr. McCague: He still does not know what he is talking about.

Mr. Cousens: He still does not know what he is talking about.

I would like to know what else he has to offer. Does he not have any suggestions to make to the Minister of Housing? He is one of the leading bright lights of the Liberal Party.

Mr. Breagh: Oh no, you better retract that.

Mr. Cousens: No. He is first out of here every day; he leads the pack to get home fast to serve his riding. And he is bright, because—let's face it—he knows how to get around town.

The honourable member has an opportunity to give leadership in the party. What has he suggested to the Minister of Housing? Has he been one of those who are saying, "Hey, keep doing the same old thing," because maybe he can get the Minister of Housing kicked out of her job so that he can become Minister of Housing? I think there is a little bit of sneakiness here.

I would like to see this member, though, take a moment to tell us in all candour if he can come up with one thing that his government should be doing on housing in addition to Bill 11. What is one housing initiative that he would suggest? He did not have anything new to say in his speech. I do not think he really had a chance to think about it, but he should give us one suggestion as to what his government should be doing to address and

respond to the housing crisis that we have in Ontario right now. I will even clap for him, a one-handed clap for the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

1650

Mr. Reville: The member for Markham is obviously unaware that the lights have been removed from city hall because they made it look like Coney Island and were destroying the building. So his remarks on behalf of the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick are not appropriate.

I should say to the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick that there are members of city council, and he knows this, of the New Democratic Party persuasion and otherwise, who think that Bill 11 and now Bill 108 are not strong enough.

Whereas the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, while he was on city council, managed always to ride the fence successfully—in fact, I do not believe he was ever on the losing side of a vote in the whole time he was there, which is a fairly good balancing act—I think he would agree that there are problems with this bill, would he not? In fact, it does not apply, in the view of his government, to buildings that are vacant. When he was a ward alderman he knew well that landlords were wonderfully successfully at emptying out buildings and then taking them down.

He knows that it does not apply to fourplexes, triplexes, duplexes or single units, and in the triplex and fourplex category that is 78,000 units his government has not seen fit to protect. He also knows that the bill is so vague as to be almost meaningless in jurisdictions that do not have quite the gumption his former council has, and that objective, measurable criteria for when it might have an adverse impact on the housing stock have not been provided for in the regulations or in the bill itself. That means the bill is a lukewarm, wimpish kind of instrument that this government would do well to improve.

Mr. M. C. Ray: I would like to respond to what appears to be a personal attack on me in my role as a member of the city council of the city of Windsor by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke). It is true that I—

The Acting Speaker: Order. Your comments are to be directed towards the comments that were made by the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick and I would request that.

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. M. C. Ray: I would like to point out that the New Democratic Party mayor of Windsor also voted in favour of a condominium conver-

sion in Windsor. I think that is a reflection of the fact that Windsor had a very strict set of guidelines for the conversion of rental units to condominiums. Those guidelines included the fact that there must not be any significant financial or social repercussions upon the tenants.

It is also interesting to note that my friend the member for Windsor-Riverside seems to ignore the fact that the council of Windsor was prepared to live with the view of the majority of the tenants living in the building, and it was the majority of the tenants who came before the city council and argued in favour of the condominium conversion. But it is not always characteristic of the New Democratic Party that it wishes to abide by the will of the majority when it plays out its doctrinaire approach to problems.

Mr. Kanter: I just want to respond very briefly to some of the comments from members opposite, particularly the member for Markham and the member for Riverdale.

The member for Markham has asked about other initiatives of the Minister of Housing. There are a great number of positive initiatives from the Housing minister. One that I have been particularly pleased with is her initiative on nonprofit housing. In conjunction, there are initiatives of other ministers of this government; for example, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Mrs. McLeod), who has initiated new funds for student housing.

Working with both of these programs, I have been working with students and administrators at the University of Toronto to create new student housing on that campus, which I might point out to members opposite—I believe the member who was interested in this particular subject might be interested to know—will be the first new student housing at the University of Toronto campus in approximately 25 years.

I think this is a very fine initiative that the Minister of Housing has begun in conjunction with the Minister of Colleges and Universities. That is one small example of the kind of initiative that has a positive impact in my riding, a downtown urban riding where housing costs are very high. That is a program which is effective and which I believe will work.

Secondly, in response to the comments of the member for Riverdale who was also a member of the same municipal council as I was, and who expresses some concerns that this bill does not cover certain types of housing units—I believe he mentioned fourplexes, sixplexes, whatever—I would simply ask how the situation will be better

by voting against the bill when we will have no protection if we follow their approach. There will be absolutely no protection for any of the tenants of this province against conversion or demolition of any type.

Mr. Philip: This particular bill has a very interesting history, if we look at it. If we look at the introduction which the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Curling) gave to Bill 11, he stated at the time that Bill 11, the Rental Housing Protection Act—that is the act that is in identical form before us today—was designed to preserve Ontario's affordable rental stock while the government's long-term housing policy had a chance to take effect.

That was July 2, 1986. All of us were in the House and we heard that promise. The government was going to do something. It had to get a window through which it could deal with the problem, but in the meantime then, it was introducing some temporary legislation. That of course is the reason the bill, the Rental Housing Protection Act, had a sunset clause in it that said it would have to be reviewed and in fact introduced again at this time.

On January 7, 1988, I asked the present Minister of Housing about the fact that in my riding alone almost 50 per cent—in fact the exact number comes out to 47 point something or other—of the rental units in the riding that I represent were in fact registered as condominiums. At this very time, at this very moment there are evictions. Indeed, also back on January 7—at that time a number of people in my riding were being evicted as those units were being sold off.

If we look at the minister's answer at that time, she said, when I questioned her, "Under the Rental Housing Protection Act and under its review we will undertake to look at that issue very closely and to make sure that the tenants are protected."

Madam Speaker, if you asked those tenants who are living in my riding in those 47 per cent of the units whether they are protected by this act, they would say no. They are being evicted at the present time; they are being evicted in some of the high-rise buildings on Armel Court; they are being evicted, indeed, in buildings on Kipling Avenue.

So the minister then, on January 7, said they were going to look at it and that the tenants were going to be protected.

When I again raised the issue with her on the date of April 27, about 15 weeks later, I said that the minister's legislation was coming up and that she had promised me on January 7 that she was

going to undertake to look at the issue and was going to make sure these tenants were protected. I asked whether they were going to be protected.

Her answer then, of course, was that "the commitment I made was that we would consider the whole issue." She had not said that. Her words had been very clear; her words were: "and to make sure that the tenants are protected." They are not protected by this bill. Forty-seven per cent of the tenants in my riding can at any time, on 90 days' notice, be evicted from their apartments when those apartments are sold as condominiums.

If we look at the price that they are asking for those, a large number of the people who are living in those units simply cannot qualify—and one can ask any real estate agent—to purchase those units, even if they so desire. Those units are selling at prices that would require a family income upwards of \$40,000 in order to qualify to purchase, assuming they had the down payment to begin with. Many of the people living in those buildings are newly married. They are setting up their family for the first time and either they just do not have that kind of family income or they do not have the down payment to purchase the unit.

1700

The fact is, I first brought this to the minister's attention way back in January 1988. I pointed out to her that a majority of the apartment rental units built after 1975—and, more particularly, after 1978—in Metropolitan Toronto were condominiums or were registered as condominiums. A lot of the people who moved into those apartments had no idea that what they, in fact, were doing was renting in an apartment condominium rather than an apartment rental building. They were not told so by their landlord. They saw that it was a rental building. They had large "For Rent" signs outside with the rents that they were asking and some people moved out of buildings where they were covered by rent review at that time—and, in fact, they were covered by the Landlord and Tenant Act—and where they could not be evicted under the present legislation, into buildings where they are not protected.

This bill just does the same thing. It goes back and makes the same promise that the original Minister of Housing, in introducing the bill, made, namely that he was going to study the problem. One has to ask, "How long does it take to study a major problem when there are so many people who are actually being evicted?" I can tell the minister that there are at least three high-rise buildings in my riding now where the tenants are facing evictions as the units are sold. Gradually,

if the real estate market continues to heat up, we may be sure that a number of the other buildings will be sold off one at a time. I ask the minister how long she wants to study the problem.

Her predecessor said he needed two years to study the problem. That was on July 2, 1986. Then this minister, in turn, in January 1988 said, well, she needed to study it, but the tenants would be protected. Now she introduces this legislation today and says she needs even longer to study it.

This minister should apply for an Ontario student assistance program grant because she is undertaking more studies than any graduate student is. If she wants a study, fine, she can give up her job, go back to university and study, but do not do it at the taxpayers' expense, and do not make false promises to people when they will not be kept.

All I can say is that this minister is as big a disaster when it comes to protecting tenants as her predecessor. Maybe she should do some studies. Maybe she should resign and go back to university, because she certainly is not doing anything as the Minister of Housing.

Mr. Cousens: I keep on looking for something from the socialist party that is going to lead to some of the solutions and all I ever hear is more criticism. We are talking about an age in which we want to see some kind of working together and all they can do is condemn and criticize and not come forward with any kind of constructive ideas. I just get sick and tired, as we all do, of the same kind of speech. I am sure, if we went back in Hansard and listened, or read—one cannot listen to it because they did not have it on tape and so on at the time—it would be the same kind of words that came.

I am going to ask the member if he can give us some comment as to when he is going to start changing his views and start trying to work together and try to come up with some recommendations to help solve this problem.

Mr. Breagh: Now that we have heard from the rump of the Liberal Party, I would like to ask the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale to elaborate just a bit on what happens when this bill does get extended, because I have some concerns that people have put some drivel on the record here this afternoon, that the extension of this piece of legislation will, in fact, solve a lot of problems.

I think people should be aware that the extension of this bill is OK by me, and we have tried to establish that, but this bill has some very serious problems in it. There are tenants in many parts of Ontario who will go unprotected for a

substantial period of time. The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) has put on the record this afternoon that in his part of Metropolitan Toronto—that is to say, not downtown city of Toronto—there are real problems and the problems are caused by this bill. The extension of the bill for a year puts those people in some considerable jeopardy.

If members want us to elaborate somewhat on types of alternatives to housing programs that ought to be done, we can do that and would be happy to do that at some length. The problem is that we have done that in this chamber for many years. There are those in the conservative aspects of the Liberal Party who have now taken over the reins and they do not seem to be much more receptive to those same positive proposals than was the previous administration.

So I would just like the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale to put on the record once again what will really happen to tenants across Ontario by the extension of this act which to some, I grant, sounds like a positive step. There is no argument from me about that at all, but I want him to put on the record once again that what this will do for others is take a difficult situation, compound it and extend it. If the government thinks that is offering protection to anyone, it is crazed.

Ms. Poole: I am having a little bit of difficulty understanding the New Democratic Party position in this—

Mr. Breagh: I wouldn't be surprised at that at all.

Ms. Poole: —even though I have a capacity for understanding which the member for Oshawa does not realize.

For one thing, we have the member for Riverdale, who says that he will not support the extension of this bill because it is not strong enough. This is our opportunity to make it stronger. I, for one, intend to take the minister up on her offer to contribute to this discussion paper and help her fine-tune this bill so it is a very strong measure of tenant protection in this province.

Quite frankly, I then cannot believe the NDP member for Etobicoke-Rexdale, who seems to be against public consultation. I really think this is what we need to make sure this piece of legislation is effective and is protecting the tenants. I want consultation from the public and from all legislators in this building.

I agree totally with the member for Markham—and I welcome him to our party—who says that it is time to be very—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Ms. Poole: I apologize and I withdraw that comment. But he is absolutely right: It is time we approached this on a very positive level. This is our opportunity to offer our recommendations to the minister, and I suggest that every member of this House take her up on that offer. We can make this a very strong piece of legislation, but first of all we have to extend it in order to have that opportunity.

Mr. Philip: In response to the member for Eglinton, the government has had two years to study this program. I do not know how much longer it wants to study a problem. The then Minister of Housing, when he first introduced this legislation, said that he was introducing it as a temporary measure to have some time in which to deal with the problem. He was supposed to have been studying it, he was supposed to have been consulting out there for two years, and now the government wants another two years to study it. One has to say that either they are very slow learners or very poor listeners, that they have not been able to get their act together in two years.

The other point then is that the member for Eglinton might like to look at—and perhaps, being a new member of the House, she does not know how the rules affect bills around here, but if she had even taken the time to read the bill, she would see that the bill cannot be amended in its present form. It is a fairly straightforward bill. It simply reinstates the previous act. So you can have all the ideas in the world that you want; you cannot amend this bill in its present form. If the member does not believe me, then maybe she could consult with some of the people who have been elected a little longer than she has or indeed speak to the Clerk of the House.

1710

With regard to the comments of the member for Markham, he of course comes from a community that has done a great deal for subsidized housing. Those are the very people who have done everything they could to keep poor people out of their neighbourhoods, and now he has the audacity to come and ask the government what it is doing.

This is the man who belongs to the same party which opposed even this very simple and very restricted kind of protection for tenants. They were the ones who opposed it. I can remember David Rotenberg saying, “Under no circumstance will we go along with Bill Pr13,” which was the city of Toronto anti-demolition bill. That

is where the member for Markham and his party stand.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I will be very brief. I just want to go back to the experience we have had in our community with this piece of legislation.

When Bill 11 was first brought in, I had high expectations that one building in particular in my riding was going to be protected, and the tenants in the building, primarily senior citizens, retired people, would not be put in the very awkward position of having to either buy their units or move out of their units.

This bill was being debated. Our own city council had a local bylaw that was supposed to restrict condominium conversion, and the guidelines for that local bylaw were very similar to the guidelines which were followed in Bill 11. However, what happened was that the basic criterion our city council followed was what the majority of tenants wanted to do.

While I can understand the position of the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. M.C. Ray), that if the majority of tenants want condo conversion, then council will look at that, one has to look at how a landlord can get the majority of tenants onside for condo conversion.

This one particular building in my riding is called Bayview Tower Apartments. At the beginning, almost 90 per cent of the tenants were opposed to condominium conversion. That was in February 1985.

What the landlord did was meet with the tenants. He would not allow the tenants to have legal representation at the tenants’ meeting. He would not allow any outsiders to come to the meetings and he considered the press and the local MPP to be outsiders. He just took the position: “This building is going to be converted to condo, and either you can be on the train and agree to condo conversion or you will have to find another place to live.”

Obviously, that converted a lot of individuals; they did not want to have to move. Some of them had lived there for 15 or 20 years. They signed the document and they were then in favour of condo conversion.

If any units became available for rent, he made the tenant sign a lease, and the lease said: “I understand that this building is going to be converted to condo, and I promise that I will not oppose condo conversion.” Or else he would allow them to lease on the condition that they signed an offer to purchase a unit.

By the time this finally got to city council in September 1986, it is true, as the member for Windsor-Walkerville said, that the majority of

the tenants had in fact signed on the dotted line and agreed to purchase their units, not because they originally supported condo conversion but because they were put in an intimidated position: they either bought the unit, supported condo conversion, or they felt they were going to be out on the streets.

The alternative this landlord had offered was that they would be able to move into another one of his apartment rental units in the area. This developer, Mr. Docherty, is a big developer in our community. The fact of the matter is that the vacancy rate at the time was 0.4 per cent, and the only way he would have made units available to the tenants who did not want to buy a condominium in Bayview Tower would be as a unit became available and vacant, and then he would move somebody over.

That did not create any new housing. He did not agree, as one of the criteria on the conversion, to set up the same number of units at the same rental rate. He did not agree to that. He did not have to do that.

Instead, city council went along and broke all three of the criteria, whether it was the vacancy rate or whether it was the building of new units at the same rate. He did not agree to those criteria, but city council just ignored that.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville is quite correct. The mayor of our community broke the tie in that particular vote and voted to convert. I condemn him and criticize him in exactly the same way that I criticize the member for Windsor-Walkerville, and I did at the time. Whether it is a New Democratic Party mayor, a Liberal mayor or a Tory mayor, it was the wrong thing to do. These older people were intimidated by the landlord.

This process that Mr. Docherty followed was a clear example and a clear demonstration of why we do not need just guidelines that council has the opportunity to opt into or opt out of, we need a piece of legislation that says there will not be conversion under the following circumstances. If it had not left the decision solely up to city council and just imposed some guidelines that did not need to be followed, we would not have had this conversion.

Now, as a result of that building being converted, this same developer has converted another building and he is presently applying to convert two more high-rise buildings in my riding and there is another high-rise building downtown that will be converted.

The fact of the matter is there have been more condo conversions in my community than there

have been new rental units built in the entire city of Windsor.

It demonstrates very clearly that Bill 11 did not work, the extension of Bill 11 will not work in my community, and our city council does not have the gumption, the intestinal fortitude, the foresight to properly enforce a ban on condo conversions until we have an ample number of rental units at affordable rates in our community, and that simply is not going to happen.

The comment of the minister's own regional office about our city council is, "Why should we bother putting nonprofit housing money into the city of Windsor when city council converts so many units?" I tend to agree with her ministry officials that city council cannot have it both ways and say it wants to convert to condominiums and then say at the same time that it wants the province to come in and bail it out by putting money into low-income housing.

It has to be a planned strategy that involves both a ban on condo conversions and an increase in the supply, but it is not going to work in a community like mine because many of the council members did not understand the supply issue, did not understand that to convert these low-income units—these units were at very reasonable rents, because they had been under rent control and were units that were 20 years old or more—was absolute craziness, that you cannot allow people to buy their units and take them out of the rental market without having a very adverse effect. In a city the size of Windsor, 150 units is a large number of units that were converted under these circumstances.

I think one of the tests of where the tenants really stood on conversion was when the last provincial election was held. Even though all of the tenants, and now owners of these condos, knew very clearly that I was opposed to the condo conversion, I won that poll in the last provincial election after the conversion. I think the reason we won that poll was that a large number of the tenants, even though they bought their condominiums out of fear of losing their place to live, really did not support the condominium conversion.

I ask the minister to move very quickly on this issue. We are opposed to this extension because we do not think it solves the problem. We think the minister and the government have had ample time to study this problem and we should not be dealing with an ongoing extension, we should be dealing with the real solution.

These kinds of bills remind me of the Assessment Act, which was amended every year

for many years because of a freeze, and the Wine Content Act; there is a whole bunch of legislation that we have to extend year after year after year on an annual basis because governments do not have enough guts to bring in the proper long-term solutions. That is why we in this opposition party are not prepared, as the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick obviously is, to take a half-baked measure.

The Liberal Party, in government, has been all public relations and nothing in terms of real long-term solutions. Instead of bringing in a long-term solution, they extend Bill 11 and they extend the lie to tenants that they are really being protected when the reality is they are not. It is all public relations. It is not reality, it is just to give the tenants the impression that the provincial government is really protecting them when the reality is it is offering them no protection whatsoever.

1720

The difference between now and before Bill 11 in my home-town community is zilch. Every application for condo conversion has been approved, and every application for condo conversion will continue to be approved by our city council until the government is prepared to act, to say: "No, it's bad planning. It's inappropriate. It doesn't increase the supply of housing and it hurts the tenants and people in middle- and low-income families in this province."

Until the government is willing to do that, people in my community are going to continue to be hurt, and that is why we are not supporting the bill. We do not want to continue with the government's public relations effort, which has nothing to do with solving the real problem.

Mr. Cousens: I think the member for Windsor-Riverside is really trying to come up with some kind of challenge for the Minister of Housing. He has obviously been very involved with the housing problems as they are within his own riding and as he has experienced them through his own party.

I thought there might be some comment from the member for Windsor-Riverside on the activities of the member for Windsor-Walkerville, who obviously lives in the same general community. I was expecting him to make some comment on them, because what we are seeing here is a government that has fallen into the trap of doing nothing, of not coming up with a long-term plan, of just sort of carrying things out the way they are, and then the member ends up having to solve all the problems of housing of the people who are looking for places in his own

community. I am wondering how he sees the Liberal member from down his way responding to these things.

Mr. Haggerty: Which side are you taking now?

Mr. Cousens: I am interested, because I see the whole problem coming out here. The member for—I keep on getting all these Windsors mixed up—Windsor-Walkerville was looking for a bit of an excuse to make a few comments earlier, and I would just like to see if the member for Windsor-Riverside has anything to say about the fact that maybe there is a different kind of statement being made by the back-benchers of the Liberal Party down Windsor way, or are they able to defend the actions of this government down there? Maybe he could give us a little insight as to what is really going on in the real world of Windsor.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I appreciate the comments of the member for Markham. He brought back some of those old memories as to the position the member for Windsor-Walkerville has taken on these important housing issues.

It is not unlike the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), who, I am sure the members of the Legislature will remember, wrote a letter recently to the Minister of Housing saying approval should not be given to senior citizens' housing in his neighbourhood, which gets down to the bottom-line problem. If people in the community do not understand the housing crisis and are not willing to stand up for middle- and low-income housing, and if members of the Legislature and members of city council are not willing to do that, then obviously we cannot look to a solution.

The member for Windsor-Walkerville certainly did not demonstrate an understanding of the long-term housing needs of our community and certainly did not understand the issue of condo conversion when the matter was dealt with in front of city council. Instead, he decided to side with the developer—a developer who is well known in the community, a developer who donates to large numbers of council members when they are running for re-election to city council. I have no idea whether he donated to the member for Windsor-Walkerville, either provincially or federally. The developer also got \$6 million in an interest-free loan from a federal Liberal government, so who knows what kinds of deals have been made over the years.

All I know is that because of the position that the member for Windsor-Walkerville took on this issue—and it was a tie vote; if he had taken the

appropriate decision, the tenants in Bayview Tower and in some of the other apartments that were converted would not have seen condo conversion, and Bill 11 would have worked in Windsor. Thanks to the member for Windsor-Walkerville, it did not work.

Mr. Reville: It gives me pleasure to offer a few observations on the occasion of the return of Bill 11 under a new disguise called Bill 108. It is a little different, actually; it has a different date at the end.

I first want to make some remarks through you, Mr. Speaker, to the member for Eglinton (Ms. Poole), who either disingenuously or ingenuously wonders about the position of the New Democratic Party in this regard. I will have to say this at somewhat more volume than usual because the member for Eglinton is not listening, which is tragic, because I listened to her when she was making her ingenuous or disingenuous remarks earlier.

The fact of the matter is that the New Democratic Party does not support this bill because it does not provide adequate protection of our housing stock. If any of the members of this Legislature who were not able to be with us during the hot days of July of 1986 took the trouble to refer to Hansard in the debates on July 2, 3 and 10, which I just happen to have with me—in fact, I go nowhere without these Hansard debates. I keep them in my trousers, so that I can refer to them often.

Any members of this Legislature who would care to inspect these Hansards will see that they are spotless. However, it was not a spotless day in the history of this Legislature. In fact, I was required to make amendments to sections 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12 and 13 of the bill brought forward by the then Minister of Housing, who has had the good taste to absent himself from the Legislature today. Clearly, he is cowering in shame beyond this precinct.

Through the combined wisdom of the New Democratic Party and, I must say somewhat quietly, the Progressive Conservative Party, we were able to amend this bill in several places. The member for Markham is probably shocked to know that.

We managed to add rooming houses to the bill. We managed to require approval for severances, so that the members from Ottawa and area would not see their housing stock lost. We managed to add fiveplexes. We thought we had added fourplexes, but the Minister of Housing tricked us: he agreed to fourplexes and then went and monkeyed with the regulations somewhere else.

That was a shocking situation. I might say it was a doublecross, but I do not think I should say that, so I will not.

We failed in some areas, and these are the suggestions, member for Eglinton, through you, Mr. Speaker, that we have already made to the Minister of Housing, should she care to consult Hansard.

We suggested that vacant buildings should be covered by this legislation because we know how successful landlords can be at intimidating people out of their housing, rendering the building vacant and therefore saving them, harmless, from this vicious legislation. We suggested that there be measurable criteria. We suggested a vacancy rate of four per cent, knowing well that this government's housing supply program would never attain that happy day. We suggested that fourplexes be included in the legislation. I should say to the member for Oakwood (Ms. Hošek), the fourplex capital of the world, that it would have saved her plenty of trouble had that particular amendment been accepted.

If I may say so in my most pointed, I-told-you-so voice, I moved this amendment, which would have saved us all a lot of boredom: "This act...is repealed on the 30th day of June 1988, or on the day an act whose purpose is to further protect rental housing receives royal assent, whichever day comes later."

When I moved that amendment, I was confronted with protestations from the Minister of Housing that the government could surely shift its shape within two years and come up with a permanent housing protection policy. What is happening here today? It is hard.

1730

I tell members, I relish this moment. Here we have the Minister of Housing, regrettably—well, perhaps not regrettably; perhaps we should say we have a delightfully new version of the Minister of Housing coming forth and saying: "Please, would you just extend this legislation? We could not quite get it together to get something better."

Now, I ask you, Mr. Speaker—and I know I cannot ask you, so I will have to tell you. I think this is really an embarrassing day for the government. It had two years and plenty of suggestions for how to make its legislation have a little bit of oomph. Basically, it could not sort out which side of the fence it was on, although we are familiar with that kind of Liberal posture. We even notice that some members of the cabinet fall off the fence and break their legs.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaître: The cast was on the wrong leg.

Mr. Reville: Where did that come from? I hope he is feeling better too. I notice the cast is off. Perhaps that is a good sign.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, those are my observations, and I certainly did enjoy putting them. I will vote with some delight against this bill, because it does not do enough to protect our housing stock.

Mr. Cousens: The member for Riverdale has been most eloquent, and we thank him for being very short as well in the time it took him to deliver his speech.

I would have been interested in hearing what the member has had to say in the past in trying to help establish a working relationship between the government and the free enterprise system, to try to build new rental accommodation in Metropolitan Toronto. It is one thing to keep on encouraging this government to strangle the whole industry so that it is tied up in a huge knot and it ends up doing the wrong thing.

Mr. Pouliot: Isn't that too bad.

Mr. Cousens: It is too bad, in the sense that you are so close to this government from the days when you had this coalition between yourselves and the member for Scarborough North and were working so closely in trying to bring in Bill 11.

What, on the other hand, has the member done to try to look at ways of building new accommodation, of building a relationship between this government and those private enterprise people who have the money and who could invest in new housing stock of rental and affordable accommodation in Ontario? What was he doing to encourage that kind of thing? Does he not want to see that? Is he encouraging this government to carry on in its absolutist attitude of trying to do everything by legislation, or does he have some common sense to offer to the solution?

Mr. Philip: Since the member for Riverdale was very active in proposing specific amendments to the original Bill 11, I wonder if, for the sake of historical purity and those of us who take an interest in the history of this House, he would like to refresh our memories as to exactly what proposals, suggestions, amendments or improvements to the original Bill 11 were proposed by the member for Cadillac Fairview—I mean the member for Markham—and his colleagues in the Legislature at that time.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. Are there other questions and comments? If not, does the member for Riverdale wish to respond?

Mr. Reville: Absolutely. First, I want to say very clearly to the member for Markham that I see my job as absolutely providing no encouragement to this government whatsoever. In fact, I want to encourage the people of Ontario to get rid of this government at the first possible opportunity.

I also want to point out that I have not viewed this government as being out to strangle free enterprise. Quite the contrary, I find this government panders to free enterprise.

I also want to say that I do not believe the private sector is going to solve our housing problem, and I am sorry that the member for Markham does believe that. It is clear that the private sector has no interest in building affordable housing. Not that it cannot build housing: It can build excellent housing, but it is not going to be affordable housing.

To the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale, I do not want to go too deeply into the history of the amendments I moved, because in fact I did list them in my earlier remarks. I might point out that the amendments that were moved by the Conservative Party at that time were very few in number. They were moved by the former member for High Park-Swansea and they were designed to ensure that tenants who lived in buildings for which a condominium application was proposed could in fact buy their units, which of course undercut the whole point of the legislation and were fortunately voted down. So, in fact, the Progressive Conservatives on that occasion in July 1986 did not take a proactive role in the legislation and, in fact, took a proactive role in almost no legislation of that period. As we can see, they have paid the price for that.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to rise today and discuss Bill 108. I might, for the benefit of those in the House, remind members that the former member for High Park-Swansea was interested in allowing something that both the owner of the building and all the tenants unanimously wanted. It is a sad day in Ontario, in my view, at a time when some of us are talking about property rights, when the owner of a building and all the tenants in the building wish to do something and the Ontario government comes in with legislation to say, "No; that may be what you want, you may own this property, you may rent in this property, but that is not what this government wants," in spite of the fact that everybody agrees.

That really is one of the tragic fallouts of this type of intervention into the marketplace. I guess when we look at whether it is appropriate to

override an individual's rights, to override property rights, to override rights of people in this province, to intervene in that way into the marketplace, to stomp on an individual's rights, there has to be a corresponding benefit to society as a whole that says, "Yes, it makes sense in this case for the government to stomp on those rights." That is what this bill does to many, many people, to many, many tenants who wish to have the opportunity to purchase affordable units and, of course, to the property owners themselves.

We had two years with this bill, of this intervention, with stomping on individual rights of both landlords and tenants. Has it worked? That is what we have to ask ourselves. Is the situation better now for having had this legislation in place for two years, this massive intervention into individual rights?

In my view, it has not worked. In fact, it has had the opposite effect. In my riding in Nipissing, in North Bay, I recall very vividly one example. Many members will say, "Oh, this example is exactly what the bill is supposed to do." We had an owner of a building who wanted to convert the building to condominiums. The proposal that was offered was that they would not change the use of the building. I think it was about 40 units; I might be out five or so, but approximately 40 units. The owner of the building offered to guarantee that every tenant could stay in that building under the same conditions and terms that he already had for his lifetime. I think they then put into place 20 years with an option, the tenants' option, to renew for 20 years. That is 40 years.

There was one objection to that. The city of North Bay approved it; the North Bay council said yes. It makes no difference who owns this particular building if it is going to continue to operate as a rental unit. The owner of the building would have stayed on as manager, and all of those commitments were underwritten into the proposal that came forward. It had the support of the city of North Bay. It had one objection by a lady who I think was about 75; so presumably 40 years would take her to 115. She was concerned about that unit; or you might suspect that some activists prompted her to object to it on some principle, that if something makes sense, that is not what we are looking at; we are looking at the threat of an owner converting this building to condominiums.

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The net effect of the legislation in that case was that it went to the Ontario Municipal Board. I am not afraid to stand in this place. I do not know

what went on behind the scenes, but the owner tells me that from talking with a number of Liberal friends he has in the riding—he is a well-known developer in the city of North Bay—there was strong pressure brought from Liberal sources, by cabinet ministers or the Premier (Mr. Peterson), from somewhere, to influence the OMB decisions that any time before an election they would not want to see a condominium conversion of an apartment building.

That sent a signal to this developer who was active in my market in North Bay and to everybody in the community, because we are not a large enough community that everybody did not know what went on. Now when you talk to them and say: "Are you going to be building any apartments? We still need more apartments in North Bay," they say: "Are you crazy? Do you think I'm going to build apartment units when the government is going to intervene and tell me what I can do and what I can't do now, five years from now, 10 years from now or 20 years from now?"

There is total distrust on the part of the private sector with regard to government. The government says it is surprised and criticizes the private sector for not wanting to build affordable housing, but the private sector does not trust government, and with a great deal of justification. That has the net effect that the private sector is now out of building apartment units. They do not want to build apartment units because they do not trust us. They would trust us if they saw some consistency, if they saw programs that actually worked. Since this government has come in we have seen Bill 51, Bill 11 and this bill to extend Bill 11; we have seen these interventions into the marketplace and the problem is worse.

They ask themselves: "Does this government just want to intervene for the sake of intervening? Are they that politically hungry that they want to just do something so they can point and say: 'What good people are we. We're going to stomp all over the developers. We're doing this in your name.'?"

But the problem is worse today. I can tell members that, in spite of the fact that it is much easier to say to tenants, "This is a piece of legislation to protect you." That is easy to sell. I understand that argument. The government can sell that argument in Toronto. I could probably sell it in North Bay. It is an easy argument to sell as opposed to what really happens when the government does this.

What really happens is the government takes the private sector out of the housing business. It takes out the little investor and it takes out the moms and pops who try to save enough money and want to build a six-unit or eight-unit apartment building. It takes the competition out of the marketplace. Then the only option left is for the government to build it.

If, instead, the government was willing to look at Bill 51 as being a disaster and at Bill 11 as being a disaster and say, "We took these massive interventions into the marketplace and the problem is worse," and was really willing to look at how you help people, I think it would come to the conclusion that there has to be a better way.

For the life of me, I cannot understand why governments do not start to look at what the combination of legislation has done in this province and here in the city of Toronto. You see statistics that indicate the majority of people in rent-controlled buildings where rents have been held down, where they are below market for comparable value, where they are below what they would be if it were not there, do not need that benefit. They can afford to pay significantly more. So we are not truly helping those people who need the help. We are in fact compounding the problem again and compounding the supply problem again.

Why would we not, as a government, start to look at helping those people who need help; in other words, putting them in a position, by subsidizing them, so that they can afford to pay what is a reasonable market rent and returning the marketplace back to some sense of sanity? I think governments should at least look in that direction.

If I were the private sector, I would be very dubious. It would take a commitment because you cannot build these types of buildings or apartment units without having some kind of 20-year, 25-year or 30-year commitment as to what is going to happen.

Members can tell me I am defeating my own argument if they like, but the biggest problem in doing that now is with developers saying: "Well, that might be what you sons of guns say today, and maybe you actually mean it this year. But what about next year? What about the next election? What about when the quick fix is easier to sell, to stomp on us and drive us back out of the marketplace again?" It is going to take a long period of time, in my view, on behalf of governments to get the credibility back of all those who are involved in the housing industry.

This is a stopgap measure, as we know. It was a stopgap measure two years ago, and in my view the situation is worse today, so I question why we should be going stopgap again for another year or another two or three years. The government, it appears to us, really cannot address the problem that is facing Ontario, the lack of affordable housing.

The fact that we are stuck with the Rental Housing Protection Act for another year is a telling sign that this government refuses to recognize that pronouncements and rhetoric are not going to solve the housing crisis. They might make some people feel good, saying, "I made this wonderful speech and I said I was going to do this and I was going to do that and I met with this group and I met with that group." But the crisis in the direction this government is proceeding is getting worse.

Members will recall that the old Bill 11 was intended only to be an interim measure to preserve Ontario's supply of rental housing by requiring municipalities to approve all proposals to convert, demolish, renovate or alter the use of rental housing. It was based on one of the principal tenets of what appears to me to be Liberal philosophy, that boom and bust can occur simultaneously. It created a boom in the condominium market. I mean, why would anybody build anything else? We would not, knowing what the rules are out there and what the rules are likely to be. It retained a bust in the affordable rental housing market.

By determining the right to convert to condos by vacancy rates—the lower the vacancy rate, the fewer the approvals—the government in my view has ensured the support of one group that I can think of, that group of people who sell condominiums in Ontario. What has happened? When we see the mass of advertising in Toronto papers on condominiums for sale, that business is booming. At the same time, people will not build rental units of any kind. Even if you are going to rent the things for \$3,000, \$4,000, \$5,000 or \$6,000 a month, you are crazy in this province to build them as rental units under the existing rules. You must build them and start them out as condominium units and perhaps give yourself a little flexibility down the road, although who knows, with this government's willingness to intervene, whether it makes sense or not and what will happen.

On the moratorium on condominium conversions in low-vacancy areas, the only competition for existing condo owners is new condominium places, and they are being built. Unfortunately,

the members of this House, I believe, should be painfully aware of this government's refusal to promote new building construction. All the actions they have taken have discouraged new building construction. If they are going to do that, they must be prepared then to build them all themselves.

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They cannot say to the private sector: "We are going to stomp on you. We are going to take you out of the marketplace. We are going to do everything we can to discourage you," and then ask, "Why are you not building units?" If they are going to take that step, they had better be prepared to build them themselves. That is where the bust sets in. There is no incentive to build new buildings for rentals. In fact, there is a strong disincentive.

A second prophecy of the Liberal vision was fulfilled. Not only do the Liberals make rental housing less affordable for the renter but they make it less affordable for the purchaser as well. Maybe that is the Liberal vision, what we call equitable injustice. "If it is going to be unjust for one group, we will make it unjust for everybody."

This bill and its predecessors live up to another principle of the Liberal government, and that is the principle of legislation without consultation. Bill 11 and Bill 108 both rely on the municipalities to alleviate the housing crisis. The act imposes additional planning requirements on all municipalities with a population over 25,000 for all changes in the use of rental housing, whether or not a rental shortage exists.

The legislation also interferes with the planning functions of regional and area municipalities in that condominium approvals are in many cities delegated from the regional municipality to the local municipality. In a cabinet submission, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario stated that some of the applications that regional and local municipalities would have reviewed prior to Bill 11 will now be overlooked under the provisions of the act. However, the government was too busy drafting what I believe is a flawed piece of legislation to listen to the concerns of those it would affect the most.

Again, in its 1988 submission to provincial cabinet, AMO reiterated its concerns. They gave the minister a second chance, and again the minister has overlooked the consultative process.

In a similar vein, the Ontario Home Builders' Association, in January 1988, not only condemned the hopelessly flawed Bill 51 but properly placed Bill 11 in disrepute as well. It

noted that enacting one piece of ill-conceived legislation to remedy the mistakes of another piece of ill-conceived legislation is not the answer to Ontario's rental housing crisis. Who can argue with that? The problem is worse day after day, month after month, year after year, as the government continues to intervene in this way.

The Minister of Housing has, I suppose, lived up to the philosophy of consultation in one small way. Now that she has introduced the bill and she is saying this is it and it is going to be this, she is opening the door to suggestions, which must be made by July 1, 1988, on how to really deal with what she sees as the problem of condominium conversion.

If the minister really believes that Bill 108 solves the problem, why is she inviting submissions now, after Bill 108 is introduced, to solve the problem? Obviously, she knows that this bill does not solve the problem. It did not when it was Bill 11, it does not now and, in my view, it is not responsible to be proceeding this way.

Beyond the loss of property rights, Bill 108 is forcing municipalities to deal with the headache of condo conversion applications in the face of a host of conflicting municipal bylaws and local pressures, which have rendered this legislation totally inadequate and totally unworkable.

Bill 108 also raises another familiar theme of this government, the government's commitment to breaking its promises. This was to be a short-term solution, an interim measure to the housing crisis. The Premier, in his former life before his massive majority, convinced this House that Bill 11 "was introduced as a short-term measure to combat the real crisis in terms of affordable housing in Ontario and will be replaced with a new housing policy after two years."

Since that time, the Liberal government has promised at least 30 different housing initiatives. In 1985, the minister's predecessor, the member for Scarborough North, promised some 350,000 new rental housing units between 1985 and 1990. Furthermore, the Liberals promised an additional 60,000 units during the 1987 campaign.

The promises keep coming. The cold reality of the housing crisis is that less than 40,000 units have been created since 1985 of that 350,000 plus the 60,000. That represents, I guess, about a 25 per cent success rate in the last three years.

That is part of the problem. This legislation is built on a premise that we are going to do something to take the place of the private sector. The government is going to do something; it is

going to ensure that these units are built. They are not built, and the problem is worse.

In addition, this government has backlogged more rent review orders than the number of rental units it has provided. That is an astounding figure. That is not a promise that they made.

Bill 11 might well be providing for the Liberal vision of Ontario, but it is not providing affordable rental housing units; it is not a panacea for the problems that are plaguing the rental housing crisis in Ontario; and, in my view, it is a step in the wrong direction.

For that reason, I will be opposing continuing this charade any longer and I will be opposing this piece of legislation.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I would like to make some closing comments. First, I would like to thank all the members of the House who expressed their views to me with such pleasure and relish in their ability to give me so much good advice.

The first time Bill 11 was passed, there was not the kind of consultation around it that I think is appropriate. Now that we are going to extend the bill, which I hope we will be able to do, we intend to speak with a variety of people, to listen to a variety of people and to benefit from their experiences with the bill that we have and with the issues that were raised in this House as well as we develop a long-term policy.

I would be very pleased to be moving very quickly on this as we pass the bill, so that we can move on to develop a long-term policy in ways

that are appropriate to respond to the concerns that I have already raised, that are raised in the discussion paper and that have already been raised in the House today and on many other days.

People have asked about our housing policy, and I want to indicate again that this is only one part of our housing policy. Various other parts of it have been articulated so far, including an extension of nonprofit housing all over the province; including the use of our government lands in order to get housing built that is more affordable; including working with municipalities and the regional governments in order to make sure that the private sector as well as the nonprofit sector finds it more possible to get housing built that is appropriate and affordable for the people of this province.

I am very pleased, for that reason, to ask for second reading of Bill 108, An Act to amend the Rental Housing Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

ONTARIO SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

105. Mrs. Cunningham: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide a complete financial report on the Ontario summer employment program, including how many guideline booklets were printed, at what cost, whom they were distributed to and when? [Tabled April 14, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Curling: Ontario summer employment program 1988 guideline booklet: number printed, 120,000; printing cost, \$43,495; distribution date, second week of March 1988; distribution list—previous participants (employers) of the Ontario summer employment program, youth employment counselling centres in Ontario, Futures offices, Canada employment centres in Ontario, community information centres in Ontario, MPP constituency offices; Ministry of Agriculture and Food field offices.

HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

111. Mr. Runciman: Would the Minister of Health inform the House if she is prepared to ensure the involvement of labour representatives in all future psychiatric hospital accreditation programs; if not, why not? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation establishes the standards of quality of care by which hospitals, including the provincial psychiatric hospitals, are accredited. The Canadian Council on Hospital Accreditation determines who it surveys when visiting a hospital. All hospital staff including union and management are involved in the hospital accreditation process.

BROCKVILLE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

114. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Health indicate the number of patient actions that have occurred at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital since 1984? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The number of patient incidents reported at Brockville Psychiatric Hospital was: 1984-85, 105; 1985-86, 144; 1986-87, 174; 1987-88, 183. This includes a range of incidents from pushing, touching and striking.

115. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Health indicate the number of open versus closed job competitions at the Brockville Psychiatric

Hospital since the introduction of Strategies for Renewal? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Since the introduction of Strategies for Renewal, there were 16 open competitions and five closed competitions at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital.

LAND TRANSFER TAX

122. Mr. Cousens: Would the Minister of Revenue provide the total amount of revenue earned from land transfer taxes for the regions of York, Durham and Peel for the fiscal years 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88? [Tabled April 27, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Land transfer tax revenues for the regions of York, Durham and Peel for the fiscal years 1984-85 through 1987-88 are as follows:

Region of York; 1984-85, \$12,768,557; 1985-86, \$19,899,264; 1986-87, \$38,665,660; 1987-88, \$63,362,743.

Region of Durham: 1984-85, \$5,206,517; 1985-86, \$8,163,832; 1986-87, \$15,870,618; 1987-88, \$24,095,129.

Region of Peel: 1984-85, \$12,463,788; 1985-86, \$19,149,988; 1986-87, \$42,222,948; 1987-88, \$58,740,700.

AGENCY CHAIRMAN'S TRIP

125. Mr. McLean: Would the Minister of the Environment explain the purpose of the trip taken by D. A. Chant, chairman and president of the Ontario Waste Management Corp., to Honolulu, Hawaii, in February 1988 and provide a list of those who attended along with Mr. Chant and the costs involved? [Tabled May 2, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Dr. Don Chant, chairman and president of the Ontario Waste Management Corp., attended the Pacific Basin Consortium for Hazardous Waste Research Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, from February 1 to 6, 1988. The consortium is an international body with representatives from Australia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, China, Mexico, the USA, New Jersey, Illinois, Alberta and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Dr. Chant was asked by the consortium to make a presentation on the work of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. and approaches to industrial waste management in Ontario. Other benefits from his attendance included the possibility that OWMC's site selection process could

be marketed in other jurisdictions; the contribution to the development of industrial waste management programs among the representatives; establishment of contacts to further OWMC's knowledge of treatment technologies, and the broadening of OWMC's recognition as a leader in the development of waste treatment facilities.

Dr. Chant was the sole representative to the conference. Total cost of his attendance was \$3,683.94.

INTERIM ANSWER

107. Mr. McLean: Hon. Mr. Elston—As the Minister of Natural Resources is not responsible for maintaining all ministers' flight records, an answer will be co-ordinated by the Management Board secretariat. The information required to answer this question cannot be obtained within the normal period of 14 days but should be available on or about June 30, 1988.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

NATUROPATHY

Sessional paper P-1, re naturopathy.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Under the new legislation which is being developed to govern the health professions, naturopaths will be allowed to provide care to the people of Ontario as unregulated practitioners. As is now the case, naturopaths will not be able to use certain modalities of treatment such as surgery or prescribing drugs licensed to other practitioners.

In the future, naturopaths will have opportunities to have their regulatory position re-evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria. They continue to make submissions to the Health Professions Legislation Review. The review is currently evaluating these new submissions.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Sessional paper P-7, re Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government has concluded that municipalities should have the option to decide retail hours on Sunday.

Since attitudes and conditions vary widely across the province, municipal governments are in the best position to determine, locally, appropriate approaches to this issue. It should be emphasized that this does not imply wide-open Sunday shopping. Those municipalities that wish to open may do so. Those that wish to restrict Sunday shopping may require retailers to remain closed on Sunday.

The current situation clearly needs to be addressed. Inconsistencies in the present legisla-

tion have led to unfairness and uneven enforcement of the law. Social changes have also led many to call for a revision of the law to accommodate local conditions and attitudes. The government has been consulting with a number of groups regarding this important subject.

Sessional paper P-7, re Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government has concluded that municipalities should have the option to decide retail hours on Sundays and other holidays and is proposing legislation to accomplish this.

The legislation recognizes that attitudes and conditions vary widely across the province and that municipal governments are in the best position to determine, locally, appropriate approaches to this issue. It should be emphasized that this does not imply wide-open Sunday shopping. Those municipalities that wish to open may do so. Those that wish to restrict Sunday shopping may require retailers to remain closed on Sunday.

The Minister of Labour is proposing legislation which will establish the right of all retail workers to refuse Sunday work, which is in their view unreasonable. That legislation will protect workers against reprisals and provide for mediation to resolve situations in which the parties cannot agree.

The current situation clearly needs to be addressed. Inconsistencies in the present legislation have led to unfairness and uneven enforcement of the law. The proposed amendments will ensure that the law is fair and enforceable.

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tion to resolve situations in which the parties cannot agree.

The current situation clearly needs to be addressed. Inconsistencies in the present legislation have led to unfairness and uneven enforcement of the law. The proposed amendments will ensure that the law is fair and enforceable.

Sessional paper P-15, re introduction of petitions on Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government is of course anxious to introduce legislation amending

the Retail Business Holidays Act and the Employment Standards Act as quickly as possible.

Such legislation will correct inequities arising from the current law, will permit municipalities to make decisions on Sunday and holiday shopping based on local needs and interests and will protect retail workers against unreasonable Sunday work.

Accordingly, as minister responsible for the administration of the Retail Business Holidays Act, I unreservedly endorse the substance of the aforementioned petition.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
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 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
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 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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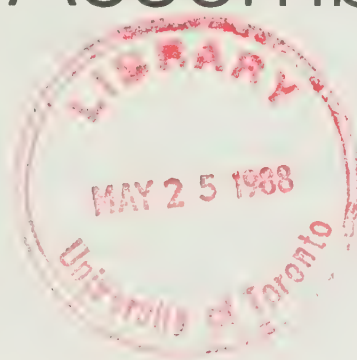
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, May 17, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 17, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Farnan: The Woods Gordon review found Cambridge Memorial Hospital to be well run, cost-effective and providing necessary services. However, the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), in refusing to fund the hospital deficit, also refuses to identify what programs or services she will cut to get a balanced budget.

For weeks the minister has been waffling on, oblivious to the facts presented to her and refusing to answer questions. I encourage the members and the press gallery to review the responses of the minister over the past week. An exercise in gobbledegook is too kind a description. The Speaker yesterday confirmed he does not have the authority to demand from the minister a straight answer to a straight question.

Bureaucratic clichés, pious expressions of concern and totally irrelevant nonsense are unacceptable to the people of Ontario, who are concerned that this minister is butchering the present health care delivery system without anything constructive to put in its place. The minister must fund this cost-effective hospital or she must cut services.

Surely the people of Cambridge have a right to an answer. Surely the people of Ontario have a right to an answer. If the minister wants to cut services, she must say what services she will cut. It is absolutely incumbent upon the minister to answer a simple question.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. McLean: My statement is directed to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). It concerns the mounting dissatisfaction throughout Ontario with the minister's lack of interest in, concern for and action on the garbage crisis in this province.

If he had taken the time to sift through the piles of garbage that have accumulated in his office, he would no doubt find a copy of a resolution passed unanimously by the mayors of Orillia, Penetanguishene, Barrie, Bradford, Midland, Alliston,

Collingwood, Stayner and Wasaga Beach that condemns him for his lack of leadership, responsibility and co-ordination in resolving the extremely serious solid waste management problem now facing a majority of the municipalities in Ontario.

It seems that with each passing day we hear about more and more landfill sites that the minister has closed down. We continue to hear about his program of transporting garbage from a community that has had its landfill site closed and hauling it to another municipality that will undoubtedly have to close its landfill site sooner than expected because of the increased load of garbage dumped there.

We have yet to hear about one solitary new landfill site that the minister has found and opened to dispose of the ever-increasing mounds of garbage we are creating. We have yet to hear him announce his support for or assistance to the construction of one single, solitary, new recycling plant for paper, glass, plastic or aluminum to create employment.

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Dietsch: I would like to take this opportunity to share with the members of the House some of the events which are taking place in my riding of St. Catharines-Brock during National Tourism Awareness Week. Yesterday I participated in the kick-off breakfast hosted by the Holiday Inn, where the week's activities were discussed and promoted.

Some of these events included on May 16, last night, the proclamation at city hall, including appearances by St. Catharines characters, both past and present. Today is "arrest-a-tourist" day in St. Catharines, where a family visiting Lock 3 will be arrested by an officer and given complimentary accommodation, meals, passes to local attractions and a tour of the area.

On Thursday, there will be a Niagara Grape and Wine Festival gourmet wine evening. On Saturday, a multitude of events will be ongoing: for example, public information displays by tourism-related organizations at the Pen Centre; a concert featuring the Sunburst steel band; and open house at Lock 3, where the model of the

new St. Catharines museum and tourism services complex can be viewed.

At this point, I would like to congratulate the St. Catharines and District Chamber of Commerce and the many volunteers who have made this National Tourism Awareness Week possible and such a success. In closing, I invite the members of this House to come and share the steeped history of St. Catharines and area and enjoy some of the sites. I welcome anyone who wishes to come down to St. Catharines-Brock for these events.

ONTARIO HYDRO ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

Miss Martel: Last Thursday I questioned the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) on a study Ontario Hydro was conducting in the village of Warren, which is in the east end of my riding. The purpose of the study is to determine the feasibility and the cost-effectiveness of transferring some 12 administrative service jobs from Warren to North Bay. Both myself and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) have advised the minister that we are very much against any move Hydro would make to relocate the service out of this small community.

The village itself consists of some 560 residents, while the population of the township is approximately 1,400 people. The village relies heavily on the employment Ontario Hydro provides not only in the administrative service, but also in its line and forestry operations. It is my belief, and this is shared with town council and Hydro employees, that if even one service is relocated, other Hydro operations will soon follow.

The effect on the village, on the township and on the neighbouring communities which rely on these services will be devastating. Not only will the village suffer a serious economic setback, but it and the outlying communities will also experience a major loss in terms of quality customer service. The Minister of Energy must ensure that Ontario Hydro will not relocate any jobs out of Warren. The effects will be disastrous and the social costs much higher than any savings Hydro hopes to make. I trust the minister will act on this as quickly as possible.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Mr. Harris: Once again, I agree with the great Conservative thinker from Sudbury East; however, today I want to talk about Ontario's incredible tax increases being the direct result of spending by the the Peterson Liberals. I think

Ontario taxpayers deserve an explanation, particularly when it comes to spending by ministers' offices.

Today I would like to mention three specific examples. Can the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) explain why his main office budget has increased by \$850,000, or 18 per cent, in one year; and why spending on salaries for his office staff is up by \$750,000? Perhaps the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître) can explain why his main office budget has increased by nearly \$500,000, or 62 per cent, in one year. Perhaps he can tell us why spending on salaries for his office staff has doubled. Then there is the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten). His main office spending has increased by a full 100 per cent, from \$1.1 million in 1986-87 to \$2.2 million this year. Perhaps he can explain why his staff salaries have increased by nearly \$1 million.

Hospitals are being cut back, college students are being forced to quit because of program cuts, taxpayers will be paying as much as an estimated \$1.8 billion this year and this bloated government is on a rampage hiring staff to serve its political masters. We intend to continue to hold this government accountable.

1340

GOODYEAR CANADA INC.

Mr. MacDonald: I was pleased to hear the announcement recently made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter) confirming construction of the Goodyear tire plant in the Napanee area. This announcement will not only benefit the constituents of Prince Edward-Lennox but also all of eastern Ontario. I am grateful to all parties involved with these negotiations.

I would like to mention three dedicated men who worked very hard to see that this plant located in the Napanee area. They are Jim Kimmett, clerk-treasurer of Richmond township; Jack McNamee, clerk-treasurer of the town of Napanee; and the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil).

In addition, I would like to pay tribute to the students of Napanee District Secondary School for their participation in ensuring that Goodyear located in the Napanee area. The announcement confirms the commitment by the government of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) to make Ontario an international competitor in the tire industry.

TEMAGAMI ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Wildman: I would like to make some comments with regard to the announcements

today by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) outside the House about the backing off by the government on a hearing on the environmental assessment of the Red Squirrel Road.

It is significant that in their comments there was absolutely no mention of the Teme-Augama Anishnabai land claim and any attempt to settle it. There was no commitment to reallocate local timber limits, to protect local mill jobs and to avoid further road construction in the area.

The minister made much of the closure of the Liskeard Road through the park after the logging is completed, but he was unable to make any commitment or any guarantee that no further roads would be built into the area around the park as well as the extension of the Red Squirrel Road.

This is a backing off on a commitment to the environmental assessment process which should have looked at how to protect the environment and, at the same time, ensure that local jobs were protected in the area.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: I am delighted to rise today to inform the House that Ontario is celebrating the second annual National Tourism Awareness Week.

Just yesterday I attended a breakfast in Kitchener-Waterloo to kick off National Tourism Awareness Week activities there. I should mention that the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) and the member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) were there. At a noon-hour meeting, where members of the chambers of commerce from all over Ontario were present, I also gave a speech on National Tourism Awareness Week. The member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) was there.

For seven days, Canadians from Newfoundland to the Yukon are organizing sightseeing tours, staging essay contests and sending town criers into the streets, all to spread the word about the importance of tourism.

Last year alone, travel expenditure in Ontario amounted to \$9.3 billion. That added \$1 billion to our tax revenues. This same money builds schools and hospitals, paves streets, helps the disadvantaged and maintains our standard of living in the province.

The millions of people who visit Ontario each year also boost employment in our province. In 1985, for example, tourism created the equivalent of more than 400,000 full-time jobs.

This week Ontarians are reminding themselves of the enormity of the world tourism industry. In 1985, it was worth \$2.4 trillion. That was 12 per cent of the world's gross national product. To expand our share of that market, the ministry has already provided hospitality training workshops to more than 5,000 tourism industry workers and we are leading another 40 workshops during National Tourism Awareness Week.

We want Ontario's ambassadors to be the tour guides, the bellhops, the hotel managers, the people who keep the wheels of tourism oiled, the people whose warmth and enthusiasm prompt the tourist to return again and again.

I am proud to see Ontarians embracing National Tourism Awareness Week. They are proving that by working together we stand ready to reap the enormous rewards of our growing tourism industry.

I would also like to congratulate the member for St. Catharines-Brock (Mr. Dietsch) for his statement today telling what great things are going on in the Niagara Peninsula to encourage tourism.

BRANTWOOD MANOR NURSING HOME

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am pleased to inform the House that last night my ministry was advised that an agreement has been reached on the sale of Brantwood Manor Nursing Home.

In order to conclude the sale, a number of steps will now be taken. First, the plan of the purchaser for the operation of the nursing home must be approved by the ministry for the issuance of a licence.

Second, the local union of the Canadian Union of Public Employees will review the conditions regarding payment of back wages owed to nursing home employees. It is expected the union will meet in the next several days to carry out its review. In the meantime, my ministry staff will immediately undertake presale procedures before issuing a licence. As part of this review, a public meeting will be called by the ministry to allow public comment on the proposed sale.

Given this turn of events, the ministry has halted plans to relocate the 116 residents of the home. I am hopeful this sale can be concluded without any further disruptions to the residents of Brantwood Manor.

Ministry staff have assured me that the protocols and procedures regarding the decision to issue a licence will be carried out as quickly as possible.

RESPONSES

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Farnan: Every efficient business demands reinvestment in its future. It also demands that we be innovative and flexible to ensure we have the type of facility and attraction that will ensure our future and secure our desirability as a tourist attraction.

I put forward to the minister that, in order to celebrate National Tourism Awareness Week in a meaningful way, he should make a commitment that he will be active and show leadership in the concept of rails to trails. This is a resource we can use that is available to us. These trails run through several municipalities. It requires provincial intervention to make sure it happens. The minister has the position and the authority to interject and to give Ontario something that will be an investment in our tourist future. I ask the Minister of Tourism and Recreation not simply to sing the praises of tourism but to do something constructive about it.

BRANTWOOD MANOR NURSING HOME

Mr. Allen: I would like to respond to the statement respecting Brantwood Manor Nursing Home that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) has just made.

Of course, it is with immense relief that all of us realize that some settlement appears to be in store that will keep 116 residents of that home in place and not have to go through the immense trauma, they and their families, of relocation at someplace more distant from the community. We appreciate the efforts of the ministry in seeking and reaching that kind of solution.

May I say, however, that it is not quite clear in the statement, first of all what the terms are with respect to the back wages or whether they will be acceptable to the union finally, although in general it is in favour of the settlement overall. Second, the minister says she is not completely certain that this deal will be completed.

May I say two things. The first is that this has to signal for us one of the major problems in the private sector of nursing home delivery, of seniors care in our province. It is simply unacceptable that a private operator can, for not just months but years, continue to defy not just normal collective bargaining procedures but the decisions of an arbitrator; hold out for that length of time, ultimately putting the sense of wellbeing of the residents themselves and the families in question through inordinate suffering and, at the end of the day, still not resolve that question but

leave it in the hands of the ministry to have to clean up that mess. When a private sector operation puts us in that position, it seems to me it raises fundamental questions about the whole private sector nursing home operation in our province.

The second thing I want to say is that if this deal does not go through, I hope the minister will respond to the earlier requests of families made to the municipality and forwarded by the municipality to the minister, that she give very serious consideration to assisting the municipality in taking on this facility as a home for the aged in that region, as the second municipally operated home in Halton region.

1350

That, it seems to me, is a reasonable solution. If this deal falls through, it is the only solution that may lie down the road to make it possible for those residents to stay in their place and to continue to secure what, frankly, in that home is quite adequate care. The community has no problem with that, but some other aspects of this operation have given the community immense concern. We want to see the minister take that municipally owned option in hand and do something with it, if this deal does not go through.

Mr. Jackson: I am pleased to rise and respond on behalf of my constituents, the residents at Brantwood Manor. We are pleased about the negotiations that occurred over the course of last weekend, after the ministry had advised family members that negotiations had completely terminated. Due to the leadership of the three parties involved, they were able to effect an agreement.

What underscores the concern for the citizens of Burlington is our concern that the role of the Ministry of Health, and specifically the nursing homes branch, and the legislation that supports those ministries involved have left residents at Brantford Manor in such a vulnerable position. The minister's role is, by her admission, at arm's length and on the sidelines, and it appears there is something seriously wrong with legislation that would allow residents to be buffered in what amounted essentially to a labour dispute.

I might comment that the families in this facility, the residents and the families, have gone through severe emotional upheaval. There have been four months of on-again, off-again negotiations. There has been a loss of life associated with the nursing home during this period of time, and God only knows the degree to which the uncertainties of this home's status may have contributed to those circumstances.

I might respond to the statements made by my colleague in the New Democratic Party. The issues here essentially are not around privatization or privately run nursing homes. In fact, this is the second time in Ontario's history that a licence has been returned, both times on the basis of a labour dispute but the first instance was with a nonprofit run by a municipality, and at the centre of both those controversies was the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Interjections.

Mr. Jackson: Before we get into an ideological shouting match, all political parties in this province had better establish that the rights of acute-care, frail, elderly residents in this province must remain a number one priority.

What is absent in the minister's announcement today is any assurance that the 16 or 17 members who have already been transferred out of Brantwood Manor will be given first right to return. I have that assurance from Mr. Sapsford, the director of the nursing homes branch, but the families are already calling me and asking if they will have the first right to return to their original residence since their evacuation and eviction was not of their own doing.

Quite frankly, we ask the minister to consider seriously section 85.1 of the Nursing Homes Act regulations, which allows for a 60-day notice for the return of a licence. It is apparent from the experience of Brantwood Manor that this time frame is unacceptable and inappropriate in terms of concluding negotiations in the hope of saving facilities, not only Brantwood but future facilities that may fall into difficulties.

Finally, this issue has left a profound impact and an image with the citizens of Burlington about how vulnerable citizens are in chronic care facilities all across Ontario. Clearly, legislation must be amended so that it responds in a more sensitive fashion to those senior citizens who were left with no one in their corner to advocate for them. We are very fortunate that the owners have been able to reach an agreement with CUPE in order to save this facility.

NATIONAL TOURISM AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. McLean: I want to comment briefly on National Tourism Awareness Week that the minister so lately disclosed today in talking about all the organizations he is supporting.

I want to say to the minister that I support this awareness week right across this province, but I think the minister should be made aware of the funding for the 50th anniversary of the Thousand Island Bridge, where the United States has put

\$200,000 into it while the minister has not put in one red cent, or a red tie.

What about the abandoned railways for nature trails that the minister has not done? What about the 14 per cent on gas tax that his government has increased for the tourists who come to this province?

I am very positive about tourism, but it is the people around the province such as the Huronia Tourist Association and the Georgian Lakelands Travel Association who make the tourism here in Ontario that the people love to come and enjoy.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order under standing order 28(a) dealing with ministerial statements: in view of the fact that there was only one statement today of any substance, we are, quite frankly, on this side of the House shocked that there was no statement from the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio).

We had a press conference. We had dozens of releases. We had a press kit. We had media availability. We have dozens of videotapes for TV stations all around the province. We have two ministers who have jigsawed back and forth for the last two or three years in this province trying to come to grips with what are really pretty straightforward issues. We have flip-flops from one minister on the one hand; we have flip-flops from another minister on the other hand.

I think it is shocking and a glaring indictment on where this government thinks it is going—or the fact that it does not know where it is going—that we had no statement today. I think it is a disregard for the members and the importance of the Legislature that there is no statement today on this matter.

Mr. Wildman: It is, I think, an indication of the arrogance of this government that ministers would continually make announcements outside of the House and give press releases to the press without making these statements to the assembly and to the members first.

We had that example with the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) last week, when she gave the press the announcement of the reorganization of the ministry before any announcement in the House.

Today, we have a major press conference by two ministers of the crown and then they do not even deem it necessary to make any statement to this Legislature. There was not a large number of statements which would have meant there was not enough time; there was more than enough time.

Why do this government's ministers not realize that the assembly is where they are elected to make these kinds of announcements, instead of these glamorous-type press conferences without any real substance? Why are the ministers not dealing with the House in the way it should be dealt with?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I must report to the House that there were interested people from that party and that one at the conference downstairs in this building. They were interested enough to come and they were able to discuss it in great detail. We are prepared to discuss it at any time the members choose.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TEMAGAMI ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, who I suspect was ashamed to make his announcement in this House today because my question concerns the rape of Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater park which the minister condones by his decision not to have an environmental hearing on that road.

I would like to ask the minister how he can possibly justify his decision not to have an environmental assessment hearing at which all parties could be present and at which all alternatives could be canvassed. It is now almost two years since an environmental assessment was requested. The minister has received over 170 submissions from the public asking for a hearing. Subsection 12(2) of the Environmental Assessment Act says that the minister shall hold a public hearing when so requested. How does the minister justify his decision?

1400

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The first contention from the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore is totally erroneous. Let us get this on the record. This is not as she describes it, "the rape of the Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater park," because, in fact, this decision does not affect the park. There is not logging taking place in that park and she should know there is not logging taking place in that park. In fact, the area to be protected has been increased by almost 40 per cent by three new waterway parks being added to this park.

That is not all. The member will know as well that prior to the decision which was announced this morning by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) and by me, there were a number of uses that could have been contemplated for that particular park. As a result of that announce-

ment, that park today is a wilderness park. It was not a wilderness park before 12:30 p.m. today and that announcement.

I want to indicate that the information provided by the member for Etobicoke-Lakeshore is, I know, inadvertently erroneous, but it is simply not accurate to say so.

Mrs. Grier: The announcement the minister has made and the justification he gives show that he has been bushwhacked by the cabinet on the question of protecting the environment.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mrs. Grier: In the light of the rhetoric we have heard about protection of the environment, in the light of the minister's alleged commitment to the Brundtland commission and his commitment that there would be no economic decisions made without the environment being given full and equal place in any of those decisions, how can the minister justify the signal that he is sending to this province, that when the Environmental Assessment Act can be ignored that is what is going to be done by this ministry? What does the minister say to the people of this province who look to the Environmental Assessment Act to protect the environment?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: In fact, the member will know that a full environmental assessment of this particular project has been undertaken. That environmental assessment document has been reviewed by 14 ministries of the government of Ontario. In addition to that, it has been looked at carefully by Environment Canada. There are changes that were made to the document as a result of the discussions between ministries and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The member will know that in four out of five instances where there is an environmental assessment, no hearing, in fact, takes place. She will also know that Dr. Daniel has undertaken a consultative process with people in the area. She will also know that the Temagami area council, which is being established by the Minister of Natural Resources, is, in fact, going to have the opportunity for further input.

The member will know that at the present time there is an unprecedented class environmental assessment taking place in the province of Ontario on its entire forest management activities from one end of the province to the other, for which \$300,000 in intervener funding has been provided by the government of Ontario, where people will have the opportunity, with excellent hearing officers in attendance.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wildman: The minister has said there was a full environmental assessment, but he has not indicated that this environmental assessment was done simply on the road allowance; it was not done on the forestry operations. He also says that Environment Canada reviewed this, but in his own documents released today it says Environment Canada had "no comment."

Can the minister explain why he is justifying the failure to order an environmental assessment hearing which would look not only at the environmental impact but also at the possibility of reallocating timber limits to protect local employment?

When he says it was because of a delay, does he not admit the delay was on the part of this government in appointing the working group in the first place, which took so many months to make a decision and then could not even come to one decision at all?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I want to say to the member that considerable input has been received in this through Dr. Daniel's particular endeavour and will continue through the class environmental assessment and the other. I know these are difficult decisions to make and the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) knows how difficult it is to apply the Environmental Assessment Act.

When my good friend was in a difficult situation in his own riding of Algoma—I understand this fully; I do not say this in any critical way of him—and when there was the Magpie River hydroelectric project for the Wawa area, I remember the member for Algoma coming down with the reeve and some other people and saying we should not proceed with an environmental assessment.

In fairness to the member for Algoma, I understand there are people in northern Ontario who feel there are difficult decisions that have to be made in these matters and that a government has to weigh everything in consideration. With the decision that has been announced, in addition to the 53 new regulated parks announced by the Minister of Natural Resources today, we have sought that balance.

CHILD CARE

Mr. Allen: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Thousands of children are getting substandard child care in the city of Toronto because the minister and his government refuse to put their dollars fully into quality-based nonprofit child care operations in this province.

That is the message of Sharon West's recent study of 431 day care centres in Toronto, comprising 23,000 spaces. By my calculation, 8,600 of those kids or about a third of those involved in the study are in for-profit centres that do not have enough qualified staff, receive two times the average of complaints, take the longest time to resolve problems, have short-term restricted licences and require most of the ministry's inspection and enforcement time.

When is the minister going to recognize that for-profit and child care do not go together and commit himself to a child care policy that will be based on not-for-profit and community-run centres that have full parental involvement with the children involved?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member is well aware of the fact that last December 7, I believe it was, I made a clear statement in this House that all future growth in this province with respect to government support in child care would take place in the nonprofit sector. I stand by that today. The member will also remember, however, that I said at the same time that 40 per cent of the child care spaces in this province were in the commercial sector and that if he, like I and all of the other people out there concerned about child care were truly concerned about the quality available to every single child regardless of what kind of centre he or she was in, then we had to provide an equity of resources to all of them.

That is exactly what this document says. I would also remind the honourable member that at about the same time a document prepared for the federal government, which was looking into this same issue, clearly indicated that the problem with commercial centres versus nonprofit centres was with the equity of resources that are available to them. That is the commitment I have made: (1), that all growth will be in the nonprofit sector; but (2), as long as there is a substantial sector of child care in the commercial sector, I want to be sure, and I hope he agrees, that the quality of care available to them has got to be the same.

Mr. Allen: The minister does not realize it, but what he has just said is that he is prepared to tolerate substandard care in the commercial sector. Why is that?

Mr. Pelissero: That's not what he said.

Mr. Allen: Yes, that is true.

Mr. Pelissero: That's not what he said.

Mr. Allen: That is true, because the minister—
Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Supplementary.

1410

Mr. Allen: The other day in the press the minister said exactly what he said by implication today; that is, that these centres would require equal resources to perform equally.

This study was done at a time when the not-for-profits and the for-profits were getting exactly the same funding sources from government to operate. He knows that. It therefore demonstrates that the for-profit sector could not perform equally with the not-for-profit when they had equal resources. The logic of that situation is that he will have to give more money to the for-profits in order to get equal results out of them.

Is that what the minister intends, to pay from public funds what in reality is a profit margin that goes straight into the pockets of the owners who run those centres rather than to better care for children?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I have a suspicion the honourable member had his supplementary prepared before I answered the original question, because I clearly said to the him that I am not prepared to tolerate two levels of quality of care. That is why I believe there has to be equity of resources. That is clearly what I said.

The second point I indicated was that there is evidence that there is inequity of resources. The member obviously is aware of the fact that this study was done in Metropolitan Toronto only. The city of Toronto, for example, has provided additional grants during the time this study was taking place to the nonprofit sector that it did not provide to the commercial sector. Our ministry provided additional capital grants to the nonprofit sector that it did not provide to the commercial sector during the time this study was taking place.

In fact, there was an inequity of resources. We believe that if we are going to provide quality resources and quality care to both of them, there has to be an equity.

I would also point out to the honourable member that in terms of putting money in pockets, he is probably aware that the city of Toronto has a clear guideline. In terms of providing subsidized spaces to commercial centres, they will only permit a 10 per cent level of profitability. That is the clear limit. There is a cap on that. I do not believe that is excessive.

Mr. Allen: The minister may not think it is excessive, but it is 10 per cent of the dollars that are not going to the kids. That is all I know.

Perhaps we could drive it home with the minister and demonstrate in a graphic form

exactly what the situation is, that what we have here, in fact, is that 99 of 133 complaints were lodged against the commercial sector.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That is not quite as good as yours. The printing is a little small.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Get Mel to do the chart. He has a print shop.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Final supplementary.

Mr. Allen: It is interesting how the members opposite object to a little elementary education.

Hon. Mr. Scott: No, we want Mel to do it so we can see it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the member have a final supplementary?

Mr. Allen: I do, Mr. Speaker. It is based on the fact that these statistics show that 99 of 133 complaints were lodged against the commercials as against the others. Those complaints ranged across serious issues—administrative policies, shortness of staff, nutrition, sanitation, safety and other matters of concern to parents when they lodge their children with day care operators.

What I want to ask the minister again is my first question. Under these circumstances, is he prepared to move his policies in another direction, that is, to move towards a system that is nonprofit and leave the profits to one side, so people can access it as they wish? Will he not move towards a complete nonprofit system, community-based and parentally involved?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I would draw the honourable member's attention to page 26 of the report that he has referred to with respect to his question. The three top concerns expressed there are administration, indoor equipment and playground.

The concerns that are way down at the bottom of the list, which I would suggest to the honourable member are much more critical, are such things as staff-child ratio, nutrition, sanitation, program and staff development. I think that if the honourable member wants to make a comparison of priorities, let him make that one.

Since we are talking about charts, I also point out to the honourable member that this chart is now being posted in day care centres, commercial and nonprofit, for the benefit of parents. It clearly outlines what is expected in those centres. It gives the parent an opportunity to review it. The headings are staffing, program, discipline, health and safety and the licence. The parents have an opportunity to look at it and make up their own minds.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to suggest that the first two

questions and responses took 17 minutes, and that is irresponsible.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now we are almost at 18 minutes. New question, the member for Sarnia.

MINISTRY ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Mr. Brandt: I do not know whether I can participate in this question period. I did not bring along a chart today, so I feel rather ill-equipped. My question is to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet. It is with respect to a series of questions we have raised with the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) relative to the bloated budget he brought in just a few weeks ago.

Whenever we have raised questions with respect to the necessary increases in that budget, the Treasurer has consistently indicated that those increases were necessary to pay for new hospital beds, for classrooms in our educational system and for other facilities of that type.

I would like to ask the minister, if that in fact is the case, how can he justify in the last four years a 43 per cent increase in administrative costs alone, clearly twice the rate of inflation over that period of time? How can he justify that kind of an increase? I would rather not have a response indicating he has built another bridge, because clearly he has not.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I do not build bridges, but I do look at administrative activities inside the government. I can tell the honourable member that from my point of view he should probably look to the number of programs that have been put in place and the fact that we cannot put in place programs and administrative opportunities without adding staff, which also takes up some salary dollars.

There is no question in my mind that the honourable gentleman probably does not understand when he says, on one hand, to spend more on hospital care and other things or to do more for people in some areas, that we also require staff to implement those programs. In fact, that has been very well put by the Treasurer in his response when he deals with the questions respecting the very sensible, tough but fair-minded budget which he brought in not too long ago.

[Applause]

Mr. Brandt: While the Treasurer and some of his colleagues are applauding that response, clearly the Chairman of Management Board should know that the area of the budget he is talking about is in a separate section and is

assigned to that particular service area specifically and has nothing whatever to do with the administrative costs I am talking about.

I would like to zero in for a moment on another budget and another ministry to get as clear as we can on this question. Over the last four years, the administrative costs in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs have gone up by 105 per cent, about four to five times the rate of inflation. This has nothing to do with programs and nothing to do with services to people but only to do with bureaucracy and administrative costs. How does the Chairman of Management Board justify that?

1420

Hon. Mr. Elston: If the honourable gentleman would be, we would say, more sure of the information he is trying to lay on the floor of the House, he would understand that there would be, for the information of the public, the necessity to know that a new ministry was created. When Housing was set aside and Municipal Affairs set aside, the honourable gentleman will understand that there were certain needs to fulfil in relation to the administrative opportunities. I think that because this government has a very high priority on working very hard on problems associated not only with housing but also with municipal affairs, there is a need to put in place the administrative apparatus which is required to fulfil the mandates of our policy progress.

Mr. Brandt: I would like to remind the minister that he is supposed to be the guardian of the public purse and he has not been the guardian of the public purse. Putting him in charge of that public purse is like putting Colonel Sanders in charge of the chickens.

Since he justified the Ministry of Municipal Affairs by the changes that took place within that ministry, how can the minister justify in the Ministry of Skills Development over the last four years an increase of 272 per cent in that ministry when 77 cents out of every dollar is not going for new programs and is not going for the delivery of services to people, but is going only and singularly for administrative costs? How in the world can he justify that kind of an unconscionable increase, which is coming out of the taxpayers' pockets right across this province? What he raised gasoline taxes and the sales tax for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Mr. Brandt: —was to pay for that bloated bureaucracy.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman likes to talk about bloated bureaucracies. I just have to remind the honourable gentlemen that when this government came to power there was a decision with respect to the need to proceed fully with programs in the skills development area. We set up, therefore, a separate administration to deal with very important policy issues.

The honourable gentleman likes to flash back to times when we were just in the process of creating the ministry and draw comparisons. That is fair, but he also has to accept some of the results of setting up a new ministry operation so that we can address problem areas which were, we felt, not properly attended to earlier. I can agree with the honourable gentleman that there have been cost increases. In fact, Mr. Speaker, you would be very well aware indeed of the same type of increases which have been foisted upon the Legislature by a demanding opposition that says it has not got enough money to run its own affairs.

Mr. Speaker: Order. That question has been dealt with.

Mr. Eves: If the Chairman of the Management Board would care to look at the estimates, he would readily see it is not going to the new programs at all.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. Eves: My question is for the Minister of Health. Does the minister support staff layoffs as a means of reducing hospital deficits?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We are working very closely with all the hospitals in this province because our goal is to have a well-planned, well-managed health system.

Mr. Eves: The minister will be aware that labour accounts for about 80 per cent of the cost of every hospital budget. She is also aware, of course, that nurses comprise by far the largest group of hospital workers and professional health care workers. I find it quite unbelievable that the minister would think that no layoffs will occur if hospitals throughout this province are to meet her ministry's directive that they are to eliminate their deficits.

We have already seen examples with respect to St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins and Cambridge Memorial Hospital, where this is the case. Will the minister make a commitment to the Legislature today that no staff will be laid off as a result of her directive and her heavy-handed confrontational approach to hospital deficits?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: Our goal is to make sure that hospitals are fairly funded for the programs

which have been approved by the ministry. If we are going to have ad hoc decision-making by hospitals acting independently, we will have an open-ended, unplanned, unmanaged health care system, which the member opposite seems to be advocating.

Mr. Eves: Riverside Hospital in Ottawa is included in the minister's list of 22 hospitals under review for chronic deficits, to quote her. Riverside, for her information, incurred its first operating deficit ever in the 1987-1988 year. That is the first time it ever incurred a deficit. It is not a chronic case of deficits with respect to Riverside at all.

Eleanor Dunn, the chairperson of the board of trustees of Riverside Hospital, says: "The consequences of Riverside Hospital meeting this directive from the Ministry of Health are extremely serious. The hospital will be compelled to restrict services across the board and, in particular, may have to close approximately 40 beds for the remainder of the year... Additionally... it will necessitate the layoff of approximately 50 full-time equivalent staff personnel.

"We urge you to intervene on our behalf, not simply because the hospital is in serious financial difficulty, but more so because of the fact that the hospital has proven itself to be an extremely efficient and effectively managed institution. To impose this penalty on the hospital would be most unjust to the community."

Will the minister help this hospital as she has helped St. Mary's General Hospital in Timmins, and will she assure this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member take his seat.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: There are many people in this province who agree with our approach to have a well-planned, well-managed health care system. I would like to quote the associate professor of health administration from the University of Toronto, who said, "If you are trying to make the system run effectively—and it is one of the best systems going; it is an excellent health care system—you have to reward people who manage well and you have got to not reward the people who break the rules and end up then with a system that isn't working well."

I sympathize with the hospitals in this province. A procession of Tory ministers for years told them that deficit funding was overspending. We want to fund hospitals fairly, but we have told them that we are going to do what we have

said we are going to do, that is, bring an end to deficits within the hospital sector and work with them to make sure they maintain essential services in their communities.

CAMBRIDGE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. Farnan: I am hoping the Minister of Health is a visual learner. The minister will notice that in 1982—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the member have a question?

Mr. Farnan: For the past week, the minister would not answer a question. Now the Liberals will not listen to a question.

The minister will recognize that the per diem unit cost in Cambridge in 1982 was \$43 less than the average hospital in its group. By 1987-88, the per diem unit cost was \$81, for every unit for every day, less than for the other hospitals.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Farnan: Will the minister recognize, as the Woods Gordon report recognized, that Cambridge Memorial Hospital is cost-effective, well run and providing the necessary services? Will the minister recognize that, based on these figures which totally prove—

Mr. Speaker: The question has been well asked.

1430

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: If a few hospitals insist on starting programs which have not been approved by the ministry, then they place in jeopardy the entire health care system. Cambridge Memorial Hospital has had increases of 41 per cent in the past few years.

The reason I have sent in an investigator is because we know that there have been unapproved programs which are jeopardizing those hospitals that have managed well and also have needs and want their programs approved. The member opposite and his party do not seem to realize that we do not have a bottomless pit; we must plan well and then manage the resources we are given.

Mr. Farnan: This is going to be a little bit more difficult for the minister because it is a linear graph, but it gets across the same point. She can see how the difference in the cost-effectiveness of the Cambridge hospital exists: \$81 per day per unit. If indeed the Cambridge hospital had received the average unit per diem for the other hospitals in its group, it would have cost \$49 million more in the last six years. What services is this minister going to cut? We have an

effective hospital. Show that we are not effective. The report says we are. Tell us the services she wants to cut.

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked again.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The issue very simply is who plans and who approves, and then how we manage this health care system.

We know that not every hospital can be everything to everybody, and I am not the only one who is saying this. Here is another quote that I heard recently. Let me give this to the member because maybe this will help him:

“The key in not breaking the bank is to make the best use of what we are spending, and that means not being everything to everyone in every institution and better co-ordination between the hospitals and the communities so that people are treated more comfortably at home and in their communities and only use the institutions when it is necessary to do so.”

TEMAGAMI ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mr. Pope: I have a question to the Minister of Natural Resources with respect to the Temagami wilderness area. It is clear there is no point in going to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley). He has abrogated his responsibilities by denying an environmental assessment hearing that he could have completed a year ago if he had really wanted to expedite it.

Mr. Speaker: The question is to?

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. Given the fact that he and the Minister of the Environment made this decision today, does he not think that northern Ontario should decide its own destiny instead of being dictated to from the south or from pressure groups who say they are from the north but are being paid from the south?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I have no problem with the initiatives that this government has taken with the people in northern Ontario; many more than that government ever chose to do in the past. We make no apologies about how we treat northern Ontario. Yes, it has every right to fulfil a role in its future, and I want to tell the members it has done that very well.

We are responding to the uses right across this province. The decision that was made today is one that is going to take into account the best interests of those people who want to enjoy the north, but more properly the people who live in the north. We have done those things. It has been

an excellent exercise, and I am pleased to have worked with the Minister of the Environment to accomplish this.

Mr. Pope: My first question was not in my own words. Those were the words of the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) last Friday in Kirkland Lake, and they indicate precisely the kind of paternalism the minister has just engaged in in his answer. Why has he ignored the opinion of virtually every organized group in northern Ontario? Why has he ignored the opinion of municipal leaders?

Why has he ignored the opinion often expressed throughout northern Ontario in the last three months by his own Minister of Northern Development and gone ahead, mucked in this issue and overturned what 10,000 Ontarians said in 1983 and which virtually every group in northeastern Ontario supports? Why has he sandbagged his Minister of Northern Development on this issue?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That has not been the case at all. The difficulty that member has as a former minister is that the government of the day prepared a document called the blue book, which had literally thousands of hours of study as to where parks should go in Ontario. This individual chose to set the book aside and decide that he would have his program put in its place.

I have taken the time now to study that first document. I found it excellent. I am returning the parks of Ontario to make them people parks; and that is very important, not only for the people of southern Ontario but very properly for the people of northern Ontario.

We are not being patronizing. When we move a whole forestry section from this ministry in Toronto to northern Ontario—which those people opposite did not see fit to do for 40 years—we are not being patronizing. We are telling the people of Ontario they were never represented by people like the member, but they are now being represented.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Mr. Chiarelli: My question is to the Minister of Health and it relates to the provision of community-based health services in the Ottawa area. In September last year, her ministry announced that it would provide startup funding and operating funds to the Pinecrest-Queensway Community Service Centre to establish a community health clinic in Ottawa West. The announcement was most welcome to the people in Ottawa West.

My question to the minister is this: to date the health clinic has not been established, and the people in Ottawa West are wondering what the status is of this project and when they might receive services.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I want to thank the member for his question. My priority is to see the expansion of community-based services, and I do not believe that community-based services should have to compete unfairly with the institutional sector. Over the past 16 months, we have approved a number of initiatives in the Ottawa area in the area of community-based programming. There are two community health centres scheduled to open. I understand that the Pinecrest-Queensway centre has had some difficulty in securing a site, but it should be functioning this fall, I think, and the Southeast Ottawa Community Resources Centre should be open this fall as well, I believe. I expect that both will make a valuable contribution, and both are part of our commitment to the doubling of people served by community health centres and health service organizations over the next few years.

Mr. Chiarelli: For the benefit of the House, and particularly the misguided the member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling), who is not in the House today but who last week accused this government of doing nothing to provide community-based health services, could the minister tell us what initiatives her government is taking across the province to provide community-based health services?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: At the present time, there are some 400 community-based programs across the province. But I believe it is important for us to make significant progress in that area, and in fact we have. A significant amount of money in recent times has gone into the approval of community-based centres in the Ottawa area as well as around the province. I would like to mention two specific initiatives: \$360,000 for three new alcohol and drug programs in the Ottawa area, as well as \$300,000 for health promotion programs at the Centretown Community Health Centre, just as an example of the sorts of things we are attempting to do.

My priority, as I said, is to see that shift. There are a number of programs presently being done in hospitals which could be done in the community, thus relieving pressures on the hospital sector. I think there are many opportunities for expansion of community-based services. I am committed to doing that.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Health. I heard the minister, in response to a question, quoting from some professor at the University of Toronto who was saying that good management should be rewarded. I wonder if the minister is aware of the conclusions of the operational review of the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa conducted by Touche Ross for the Ministry of Health.

The first conclusion is as follows: "(1) We believe that the Riverside is a well-managed hospital which has been able to control expenditures and to maintain a consistently high level of productivity under very tight operating conditions."

If that is in fact the conclusion of Touche Ross, that the Riverside Hospital is well managed, and if that is the conclusion with respect to other hospitals that are now running a deficit for reasons beyond their control, why in the name of goodness is the minister forcing these well-managed institutions—according to the minister's own studies—to cut beds, to lay off staff and to reduce service to people who are sick?

1440

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I have said a number of times in this House, and let me say to the Leader of the Opposition, that our goal is to fairly fund hospitals. We began a two-pronged approach to do that. The first is to determine what the chronic problems are.

We believe on this side of the House that we should not have an open-ended funding system. In order to achieve that, what we have to do is insist—and that is really what the issue is; it is a planning issue—that before hospitals expand programs and start new programs, they receive ministry approval.

We are working with some of the hospitals that are experiencing problems, and where we have approved programs we will ensure that they are appropriately funded, as we did with St. Mary's General Hospital, for example.

I have not reviewed the specific case. Ministry officials now have those 22 reviews, and they are reviewing them. As cases are brought forward of legitimate programs which have not been adequately funded, we are addressing those. Where we have unapproved programs and unplanned expansion, we are addressing those as well.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister wants to talk about open-ended. She is cutting back exclusively on hospitals, whose budgets have increased by 66.3 per cent from 1982-83 until 1988-89. I would

like to ask the minister how she can justify singling out hospitals as the only area in her budget which is being subjected to this kind of attack when in fact transfer payments to physicians and practitioners have increased in the same period not by 66 per cent but by 117.8 per cent; when the Ontario drug benefit plan has gone up in the same period not by 66.3 per cent but by 168.9 per cent—she wants to talk about open-ended—and when laboratories were up, until 1986-87, not by 66 per cent but by over 80 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to ask the minister, how can she have the effrontery to come into this House and talk about planning and about how you have to have controls when the only institutions that are being affected in this way are hospitals, in a totally unplanned, anarchistic way which is hurting patients, when the rest of the system is right out of control and her own figures show it?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. He knows the Ontario health insurance plan and the Ontario drug benefit plan are under review. As well, he knows they are open-ended programs. What he is saying is that we should do exactly the same and have an open-ended program on the hospitals side; that we should not insist on good management and good planning.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I would say to him, what we are attempting to do is bring some predictability to the hospital sector, treat them fairly and insist that we have the kind of planning and the management that will not jeopardize our health care system, and he knows it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question. The Leader of the Opposition and the Minister of Health, order. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot).

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I recall some time ago a member getting up on a point of order referring to the length of time, I would not say all wasted, but the length of time taken for a number of questions. New question?

CHILD CARE STUDY

Mrs. Cunningham: In light of the lack of respect of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr.

Kerrio) for this House earlier this afternoon, my question is for the Minister of Community and Social Services, who I think set a precedent for his colleague's behaviour this past weekend. I am talking about an important report on day care.

A newspaper, the Toronto Star, asked for the report. The Star wrote the questions. The ministry paid the researcher. She reported back to the same newspaper. They then reported it as news. Is this the method by which the minister plans to communicate with elected members of this House?

Mr. Cureatz: No respect for the House.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Why don't you ever complain about the Sun?

Mr. Runciman: They're not in your pocket.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will have to remind you again of 24(b). Minister.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will be aware of the fact that in January this year we passed the freedom-of-information legislation. That means that anyone in the public domain is free to ask for information from this ministry or any other ministry of government.

When we received the request, which was a legitimate request, it became relatively apparent that the only way we could respond to it was to do a complete search of our files for the period requested. We indicated to the reporter that we were prepared to do that since that was information we as a ministry would want to collect anyway. This was not new research; it was simply an analysis of our files.

Since we do not have the staff to do that, we brought someone in to do it for us. We had to have someone who knew how to read the files and how to interpret the questions properly. The request was a legitimate one. The information was there. We collected it in that particular way, and we passed it on to the person who asked for it.

This was not my research. It was not my initial question. It was not information that I had prepared to bring before the House. I think it was a legitimate question, and I think the response was handled in an appropriate way.

Mrs. Cunningham: The bottom line is that the people of this province paid for that report. I am an elected representative, and I come here to work on behalf of the people who elected me. I do not appreciate having matters that are important to me and my colleagues brought to my attention on the weekend when I am at my home

in London, especially on an important matter such as direct grants to day care centres, direct grants to commercial operators.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: Never on Sunday.

Hon. Mr. Elston: "Please call me between nine and 3:30."

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Thank God you people forgot to pass freedom of information.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure that information would bring a question to your mind.

Mrs. Cunningham: The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) advised me that I should be at the beach. I was not at the beach. I was doing my work, or trying to do my work, on behalf of the citizens.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Interjections are out of order. As a matter of fact, the question period may soon be over. I will just wait.

Mrs. Cunningham: I do not think there really is an excuse for this. Direct grants to commercial centres are an important issue, and I should probably be criticizing the minister for the action he took.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mrs. Cunningham: What I am doing is asking the minister, will he please assure this House that elected members of this government will receive reports that are as important as the one he gave to the Toronto Star this past Saturday?

1450

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member will realize that it has always been the practice of this minister to respond as openly and as fully as possible to any question asked by any honourable member in this House. I have also attempted to respond to any question asked by members of the news media, and I have also attempted to answer any question asked by the public. I have always done that and I will continue to do that.

The member will also realize—she can ask any of her colleagues—that in the three years I have been minister I have never made an announcement affecting my ministry or this government outside of this House before I made it in the House, provided it was my announcement.

I point out to the honourable member that had I collected that information to make a report, it would have come here first. That is not the way the question was put. I think it was legitimately put and I think it was legitimately responded to. If I were asked the same kind of question again, I would respond in the same way.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mrs. LeBourdais: My question is to the Minister of Education regarding religious education in the province's schools. As I am sure the minister is aware, concerns are being expressed by a number of groups that our system of education is not providing adequately for the religious education needs of our students. Within this context, the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) plans to bring forward a resolution addressing this question within the next few days.

Would the minister provide the House with some understanding of what his ministry is doing to address the needs of students and the demands of religious groups with respect to religious education, while at the same time protecting the right to freedom from religion where that is an individual's choice?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to thank the member for her excellent question. I want to indicate to her and to members of the House that over the course of the past several months we have been working very closely with the Minister of Citizenship (Mr. Phillips) in an effort to establish a multifaith committee to look at the issue of religious education in our school system.

The committee will have as its task the responsibility to look at and address some of the very real concerns that have been expressed to me, not only by many religious leaders across this province but also by those representing various cultural groups.

Mrs. LeBourdais: I am pleased to learn of the minister's intention to strike a multifaith committee in the near future. I have no doubt that the major faiths will be asked to take part in this endeavour and will receive appropriate representation.

Can the minister explain how he will provide for appropriate representation for other religious groups, for those members of our society who do not belong to a particular faith and for those who practise no religion?

Hon. Mr. Ward: Obviously, that will be one of the difficult issues that must be addressed in the consideration of the responsibilities of this commission, and certainly the committee will have as its responsibility an obligation to address those divergent opinions.

TREE PLANTING

Mr. Wildman: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources related to his comments last week in answer to my question

about contracting out of ministry jobs in forestry. The minister indicated that if anyone was being harmed by his ministry's policy, he should contact the minister directly.

How can he square that statement with the information I received from the local employees in Blind River that they wrote to the minister over a month ago and simply received a perfunctory acknowledgement from his office?

Also, how can he square it with the statement made in a letter he wrote to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), which states, "My ministry will continue to explore ways to conduct forestry activity so as to encourage local employment opportunity through the private sector"?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Of course, the private sector is very much involved in forestry practices in the province. To the degree that I can influence them to hire local people, I am going to do that whenever I can.

The fact that there are some of those initiatives taking place out there has to do with the ministry deciding we are going to impact on the great number of people who were in my ministry. Over the past four or five years, we have reduced the ministry regular staff by some 10 per cent.

Mr. Wildman: We are not talking about regular staff.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: We have also done that with the staff on contract. I think that just shows good management, that we are going to go out there and get the forests kept in the way we have with a reduction in staff.

For the purpose of asking private contractors to hire local help where they can, I am prepared to do that at any time. I have done that for many of the member's people on that side.

Mr. Wildman: That is not what the minister said in 1985 about contracting out.

Can the minister assure the House that the employees employed by private contractors are living and working under adequate conditions? Can he assure us that the conditions which are now being experienced by workers who work for RHIZA Reforestation Inc., which has a contract for 263,000 trees in the Blind River district, are not typical? There were no washroom facilities and no shower facilities. The employees were given only porridge for breakfast and Kraft Dinner for supper and had to pay \$15 a day for that food. They had no hard hats, no regulation work boots and they were being transported back and forth to work in a closed van with gasoline—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member placed a number of questions.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I need not remind the honourable member that one of the first initiatives I took as minister was to address the situation where some of the workers had not been paid. I guaranteed that they were going to receive their pay regardless of whether the contractors paid it. I wanted to show that my faith in the kind of direction which has been given out there is one I am prepared to support. If there is going to be contracting out, I am going to guarantee that the young people will be paid; next, I am going to guarantee, to the degree I can, that working conditions are going to be acceptable.

When the member brings these things to my attention, I want to refer him to the practice we now have of having people who are going to participate in working for the ministry go through phases of what we expect of them. If they do not live up to those standards, I am—

Mr. Reville: Did you ever see *The Grapes of Wrath*?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not understand the reaction, because what I am saying is that they are directed in the way they are supposed to participate with their help. I do not understand the big joke from the member on the other side, but I take that very seriously. The member brings it to my attention. I am saying they are directed as to how they should be treated, and it is my—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ACCESS FUND

Mr. J. M. Johnson: My question is to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs. The access fund is operated jointly by the minister's office and the Office for Disabled Persons. The fund was established to increase the physical access of disabled persons and senior citizens to existing community facilities. An example would be the installation of an elevator.

However, her ministry and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) have refused to assist Rose Andrews, project manager of Meadowview Place, a two-storey senior citizens' apartment building in the township of Erin, in the county of Wellington, to install a chair lift or an elevator in this nonprofit housing corporation.

When seniors living in second-floor senior citizens' apartments become disabled through a stroke, a heart attack or even an accident, they are then trapped in their homes without access, because they cannot use the stairs.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Does the minister realize that both she and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons are forcing these disabled seniors to move out of their homes and into nursing homes because they will not provide the access?

1500

Hon. Mrs. Wilson: I am pleased to answer the questions from the honourable member across the floor. The access fund has particular criteria that are used to determine the community organizations that will be able to access the particular fund. Accessibility for disabled and seniors is, of course, the number one criterion.

The fund is particularly to benefit community organizations that are nonprofit, such as community halls, legion halls and churches. Housing organizations do not fall under that particular criterion, but I should tell the member that we have been able to assist some 71 organizations throughout the province to date, and we now have some \$4 million in applications before us. He can see that community organizations which do fit the criteria are certainly taking advantage of the fund he mentioned.

I would be more than happy to look into any particular case he has for me. If he would give those details to me, I will check and see how the criteria fit, because of course our goal is to keep seniors and the disabled in the community. The access fund is certainly a different sort of fund and perhaps there is another area we can look into through the Ministry of Housing, with that particular focus in mind.

Mr. Speaker: That completes that question and supplementary. The time for oral questions has expired.

PETITIONS

ÉCOLE FRANÇAISE SAINTE-BRIGITTE

M. Pouliot: À l'honorable lieutenant-gouverneur et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

« Nous, les soussignés, sollicitons l'autorisation du parlement de l'Ontario et tenons à dire au ministre de l'Éducation, de:

« Garder notre école française Sainte-Brigitte à Nakina. Nous nous opposons à la proposition adoptée par le Conseil scolaire des écoles séparées de la région du Supérieur-Nord, à ce que nos enfants soient obligés de se déplacer quotidiennement de Nakina à Geraldton, une distance de 142 kilomètres aller-retour et en plus, sur une route médiocre. »

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Jackson: I have a petition signed by 5,000 irate Ontario taxpayers which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

We have 5,000 petitions signed, I have attached my signature and I am pleased to submit them.

ROUGE VALLEY

Mr. Faubert: I have a petition from a number of supporters of the Save the Rouge Valley organization, 35 in number, who wish to submit this on their behalf.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas the Rouge Valley system contains an abundance of natural beauty and sites of historical importance and archaeological significance; and

"Whereas the Rouge Valley system is a unique oasis of nature found within the boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto; and

"Whereas the Ontario government has indicated its continuing commitment to the environment through its generous support programs towards preserving the Rouge Valley system and the Carolinian forest, and the historic and archaeological sites contained within;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, hereby petition the government of Ontario to give every consideration to the various alternatives available to them to ensure that the Rouge Valley system be preserved so that future generations may have the opportunity to enjoy them; these alternatives include a provincial park or a national heritage park."

I have appended my signature thereto.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. M. C. Ray: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 139 residents of Windsor and Essex county, said signatures collected at Living Lighting in Devonshire Mall. It is not possible to tell whether or not they were irate, but they are none the less in opposition to Sunday shopping.

Mr. Cordiano: I have a similar petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor from the

Ontario Korean Businessmen's Association. They have collected a couple of thousand signatures. I had to count them in an instant.

Mr. Jackson: Isn't it great when you read them?

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Sit down and stand up later.

Mr. Cordiano: Give me a break. Come on; I have not done this very often.

It numbers, as I say, some 2,000. I would like to submit those.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Harris: I have a petition signed by 5,000—I am not sure whether it is 5,000; it is a whole whack of irate taxpayers in Ontario—which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

ONTARIO HYDRO
ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE

Miss Martel: This is a petition signed by residents of the village of Warren, the township of Ratter and Dunnet and neighbouring municipalities, all of whom would be affected by a move by Ontario Hydro. The petition is to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads:

"Whereas Ontario Hydro is presently undergoing a study to review the organizational structure of the Warren area facility, resulting in the possible relocation of the customer service and administration department to North Bay;

"And whereas our rural northern municipalities are small and closely knit, with no industry, limited resources and scarce job opportunities for our young people;

"And whereas the loss of permanent and part-time job positions will adversely affect our community business, financial and social structure;

"And whereas Hydro customer satisfaction in our area would be greatly reduced;

"Now therefore be it resolved that we hereby request the provincial government and Ontario Hydro to do everything possible to ensure that Ontario Hydro in Warren remains status quo."

I agree with them and I have affixed my signature to this petition.

INSTITUTIONAL CARE WORKERS

Mr. Owen: I have a petition to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. It reads as follows:

"We wish to bring to your attention our discontent with the totally inadequate wage offers that have been offered in our category, institutional care.

"We find the offer even more ridiculous when we are told that the government is considering an increase of 2.07 per cent in the pension indexing.

"The annual cost-of-living increases are at a four per cent to five per cent level. The provincial government also is considering an increase in the sales tax.

"In conclusion, an offer of four per cent is inadequate to meet with the annual percentage increase of over eight per cent. A more substantial wage offer must be presented in order to close the gap between management and labour during these negotiations."

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Runciman: I have a petition, signed by several hundred irate taxpayers in Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

REPORTS BY COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Fleet from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following reports and moved their adoption:

The Special Report, 1988, from the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

The First Report, 1988, from the standing committee on regulations and private bills.

Mr. Fleet: These two reports go to the heart of political accountability that every member of this Legislature is responsible for. Our regulatory procedures have fallen behind the times and significant reform is needed.

The special report covers the regulations issued in the last four months of 1984. The other report covers the period 1986. These reports reflect the views of the committee, as constituted in 1985 and early 1987 respectively.

The Regulations Act is over 40 years old, and it has been 20 years since there was a significant amendment. A comprehensive review of the act was sought by this committee a decade ago. That call for reform is forcefully repeated in the special report, 1988.

The first report, 1988, goes on to highlight extensive changes in the regulatory environment which have occurred in Ottawa and Quebec. It too calls for further study in Ontario. Both reports touch on public participation in the making of regulations, known by the arcane title of Notice and Comment.

The public has a right to ask if optimal public participation is actually taking place when regulations are made. Further, are we, as legislators, truly accountable for the laws we pass, including regulations? These two reports are beacons, warning all honourable members of the serious and long-standing need for regulatory reform.

The existing standing committee on regulations and private bills held hearings this past March, and I expect it will soon present a further report to the Legislature with specific recommendations for reform. I urge all members to give this topic their consideration and to support improvements in the system.

There is a reference in the special report, 1988, concerning the former counsel to the committee which deserves our special recognition. I will quote briefly from the report:

"Your committee wishes to acknowledge the important and dedicated role played by Lachlan R. MacTavish, QC, as counsel to your committee since its inception in April 1977 until his death in 1985. Mr. MacTavish's record was probably unique in the history of the Legislature of Ontario, covering nearly half a century.

"His first appointment was as an assistant law clerk under the Speaker of the House in January 1936. He subsequently served as a law officer of the House in many different capacities, including that of senior legislative counsel from 1947 to 1970.

"Mr. Lachlan R. MacTavish served your committee with patience, understanding and, above all, with dedication and distinction. His unmatched experience has been invaluable. We will miss him greatly."

On motion by Mr. Fleet, the debate was adjourned.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SITTINGS

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the standing committee on social development be authorized to meet on Wednesday, May 25, 1988, and on the morning of Thursday, May 26, 1988.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

GASOLINE HANDLING AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wrye moved first reading of Bill 133, An Act to amend the Gasoline Handling Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have a brief explanation. These amendments will enable us to ensure that the many ageing underground storage tanks at private outlets do not leak automotive fuel into our soil and waterways. Tanks and piping would have to be protected from external corrosion or removed by 1991. Suppliers would be prohibited from filling tanks not meeting safety standards and registered with the fuel safety branch. Anyone contravening the act would face penalties of up to \$10,000 in fines or a year in jail.

The program for upgrading retail outlets is well under way, and we have identified and removed most of these abandoned tanks. Through this legislation, we will be able to meet our objective of having both private and retail outlet tanks up to safety standards by 1991.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

RENTAL HOUSING PROTECTION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Ms. Hošek moved third reading of Bill 108, An Act to amend the Rental Housing Protection Act.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Some hon. members: No.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will say "aye."

All those opposed will say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved second reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Act and the Education Act.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: This bill deals with three important issues in the regional municipality of Waterloo.

The first part of the legislation will implement the request of the council of the region of Waterloo to introduce a new system of sharing regional and school board costs and will bring all properties in the region to a uniform assessment

base. Currently, within the region, 70 per cent of the property tax bill is in respect to regional and school board requirements. These taxes are unfairly distributed among ratepayers who live in the same regional and school board jurisdiction.

The update of the assessment base will permit the implementation of cost-sharing arrangements that allow the regional municipality and each school board to establish one mill rate for residential purposes and one mill rate for commercial purposes. These will be applied uniformly throughout their areas of jurisdiction in the region.

Councillors, trustees and ratepayers alike will then be able to understand and compare property taxes between different properties. The legislation will also require the Ministry of Revenue to update the assessment base at least every four years, in order to reflect subsequent changes in market value.

This amendment, which is similar to that enacted for the regional municipality of Sudbury in 1986, and for the regional municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk in 1987, represents a major step forward in our continuing effort to improve the property tax system in Ontario.

The second part of the legislation will implement another request of the regional council by expanding the region's waste management powers. At present, the region is responsible for the disposal of solid waste. The legislation will also grant it the authority to assume, with the consent of area municipalities, responsibility for the collection of waste. This will put the region in a much better position to handle the difficult issue of waste management. The bill will also give explicit general authority to the region to operate 4R programs for the reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of solid waste. The main purpose of these programs is to reduce the amount of waste that must be disposed of at landfill sites.

The final part of the bill will give the region authority to collect industrial development charges on certain lands in Cambridge and Kitchener. The region has requested this particular amendment in order to allow it to recover its share of the costs of servicing the land occupied by Toyota as well as the surrounding provincially owned lands. It will be able to impose the charges on only those privately owned lands that are located within the area defined in the schedule to the bill. These private lands have benefited substantially from the services which were installed for the new Toyota plant and for the future industrial development plan for this area.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: I just want to say very briefly, on behalf of the members from the Waterloo region, that we are delighted that this bill is proceeding through the Legislature today. It is basically a housekeeping bill, carrying out the terms of the agreement with regard to Toyota, permitting the region to move ahead with its assessment rate changes and also permitting it to move ahead with regard to waste management recycling and reduction. Our region has taken certain leadership roles in that area and we wish to continue to do so.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I think the issues are very well addressed. They are housekeeping issues, I think they are very important to this particular region and I would appreciate the support of all members of the House in putting those through.

1520

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate?

Mr. Swart: Yes, I would like to participate very briefly in this debate. As I understand the bill, our party will be supporting it and will not be asking for any amendments.

I want to make one or two comments, though. I want to assure the House that our support of this bill is in no way endorsing market value assessment in general.

Second, I understand—and I would ask the minister to comment on this when he replies—that in fact there is no extension of market value in that region because of the passage of this bill. They have that system in place, as I understand it, at the present time, and all that it will mean, as I understand it—and I want this confirmed—is that they will not have to go through the rather useless procedure of equalization in that area and they can bring everything up to the date of this year; they do not have to equalize it on the basis of the previous year's assessment.

I did have some concerns that the wording of the bill might mean that some of the farm areas of that region might be involved in having to pay mill rates in which some of the money was going to urban services, like water and sewers. But, again, I understand that the Waterloo region, in fact, does not levy urban areas; rather, all of the costs of the sewer and water operation are levied on users' fees; and again, I would like to have the minister confirm that.

As he will know, there are certain municipalities and regions throughout the province which do have the urban areas and do assess on taxes a special levy for certain urban services. The rural area does not have to pay them and, of course, I

would have some concern if this did extend to them, but I understand that it does not. I would like him to confirm those two things when he replies.

Of course, with regard to the extension of waste management, if they wish it there, it is a logical move; we certainly have no objection to that. And the special industrial development charges which they propose, we believe, are reasonable, again, when the regional municipality would like those.

So, subject to confirmation of those two assumptions, we will be supporting this bill with no amendments.

Mr. McCague: We, too, will be supporting this bill, although, like the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart), we have some concerns about what the market value assessment angle really is that is included in this bill. I know the member for Welland-Thorold has been here as long as I have and I wish him well in getting answers to the questions he just posed, because this minister in particular is noted for not answering questions almost ever, as are his cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Reville: He is getting it over there now.

Mr. McCague: Oh, he is getting the answer. OK, that is fine.

Hon. Mr. Conway: George, this is not your normal style.

Mr. McCague: It is my normal style, or becoming my normal style, because of the normal actions of the House leader and his colleagues over there. However, I am not as learned in the profession of gobbledegook as the House leader is, but I do have the odd point to make the odd time.

The member for Kitchener (Mr. D. R. Cooke) says that the region is a leader in almost everything. I do not blame him a bit for believing that, but there are other areas of the province which are doing a good job in the waste management area.

I am pleased that the bill will take care of the production of Toyotas. In Alliston, we do try to rival them a little with the production of Hondas. However, in the interest of fairness, we are quite happy that there are car plants established in various parts of the province. I must say that for the most part Honda Canada has done wonderful things for the people in my area of the province.

I do have one of them. I do not know whether the member for Kitchener has a Toyota yet or not.

Mr. D. R. Cooke: My wife has.

Mr. McCague: His wife has. Oh yes, she is the one who likes Sunday shopping, isn't she?

Mr. D. R. Cooke: We do not buy anything on Sunday.

Mr. McCague: She is opposed to it. Oh, I see.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. McCague: Pardon me, Madam Speaker.

However, I hope that the whole assessment issue is not a precursor of what the minister may wish to introduce at some later time. I know that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario is supporting this bill. I think it was in February of this year that the region passed a resolution requesting the implementation of uniform region-wide assessment for the taxation year of 1988. I think it is important that we as a Legislature go along with their wishes. I think it is similar to what was done in Sudbury, as the minister said, in 1986 and in Haldimand-Norfolk in 1987.

I guess we must support the fact that the member for Kitchener would like the matter of waste management squarely in the hands of the region, but by the same token I think maybe the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) might want to persuade his colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) to become more active in this general area.

He is kind of shaking his head half yes and half no. When the problem really hits—

Mr. Reville: a common Liberal position.

Mr. McCague: Yes, that is right, squarely on the fence. When the issue really hits his part of the province, he may well decide that he is more interested in it.

We will support the bill with the caveat that we are just not sure what is hiding behind the assessment part of it.

Mr. Reville: I will not treat members to the kind of tour de force that I unveiled yesterday. I just wanted to intrude briefly on the conversation that was going on between the member for Kitchener and the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) to indicate that I have been to the regional municipality of Waterloo. It is a fine place too. I did want to point out only that the officials of the regional municipality are sitting poised, waiting to send out the tax bills, I understand. While the minister and the member for Kitchener say this is a housekeeping bill, the officials in the regional municipality and the members of the regional council there wish that this government would do its housekeeping much more quickly in future.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: I just want to thank the honourable members for their comment and participation in the debate. To the member for Welland-Thorold, I believe he is quite correct in the assumption which he made and I do not see any problem at all in that particular area with the services.

I want to express appreciation also to the people of the municipality of Waterloo for their background work in bringing this to our attention, and also for the work they have done in the past.

1530

Mr. Swart: Madam Speaker, perhaps you would permit me to just ask the minister a question. He did comment on the one question I raised. He did not comment on the—

The Acting Speaker: Order. There are no comments allowed to the wrapup speech made by the minister moving the bill.

Motion agreed to.

The Acting Speaker: To which committee will the bill then be referred?

Hon. Mr. Conway: The understanding was that we would do second reading of Bill 130. We have done that, and third reading will take place probably tomorrow.

Bill ordered for third reading.

LOI SUR LE FONDS PATRIMONIAL DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND ACT

L'hon. M. Fontaine propose la deuxième lecture du projet de loi 116, Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine moved second reading of Bill 116, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Cela me fait plaisir aujourd'hui de présenter, en deuxième lecture, la Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

Le Fonds est doté d'un budget, au total, de 360 millions de dollars. Il sera administré par un conseil formé de Nord-Ontariens provenant de différentes régions. C'est une promesse que nous avons faite aux personnes du Nord. Ensuite, c'est une recommandation de M. Bob Rosehart et de son comité, qui nous avaient dit d'essayer d'établir un fonds qui serait représentatif des personnes du Nord.

Il viendrait s'ajouter aux activités actuellement entreprises par le gouvernement. Je sais que

depuis deux semaines, depuis la première lecture de ce projet de loi, certains dans l'opposition ont même ridiculisé ce fonds-là, en disant que ce n'était pas suffisant.

Mais je dois rappeler aux députés du Nord, ainsi qu'aux autres députés, que ce fonds-là est distinct des autres fonds qui existent déjà. Souvent, on semble oublier que dans le Nord de l'Ontario actuellement, il y a des fonds, par exemple celui qui s'appelle la Northern Ontario Development Corp., qui s'occupe de développement industriel et du développement des petites entreprises.

Ensuite, on oublie le fonds qui s'appelle TRIP, le tourism redevelopment incentive program, qui s'occupe des projets touristiques. On oublie le fonds de quinze millions de dollars pour les cinq prochaines années qui s'appelle NOTICE, le northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement.

On oublie le fonds qui aide les petites municipalités ayant une population de 4000 à 30 000 habitants à se regrouper et à embaucher une personne pour s'occuper du développement économique. Ce fonds-là coûtera, pendant cinq ans, pour chaque municipalité qui en fera la demande, 500 000 \$.

We forget the fund that we put in place lately for distant education and we forget the fund about our roads.

Today, the opposition was talking about a fund of \$500 million, but I recall that when the people were serving on the Rosehart committee, they were talking about a fund that would include all the programs, which we did not do. This \$30-million fund will be outside other programs. The only one we are going to roll back for the time being is the northern Ontario regional development program.

Mr. Laughren: Oh.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I do not care that my friends start to laugh. They should go to the north and do the same thing to see what people will say.

Mr. Laughren: Don't worry. We are already. The north is laughing already.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am not worried about Nordev because I make the same speech in the north. I do not do like the opposition, like the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren)—make one speech over here about something big and another speech over there. I make the same one all the time.

Mr. Laughren: That's not fair, René.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: That is not fair, but listen for a while and then talk after.

In recognition of the need for the long-term commitment to the north, the government is pledging an initial commitment of \$30 million. The reason we put—

Mr. Laughren: That's not the truth, René. You're not telling the truth.

Mr. Pouliot: You should go to church on that.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I think, Madam Speaker, that I have nothing to take from the member for Nickel Belt, because a couple of years ago he made a speech here and he did not repeat it in his own area.

Mr. Laughren: That's not true.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am going to tell you the date.

Mr. Laughren: I wouldn't call you a liar, but that's not true.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: About the same thing that we discussed.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would remind all honourable members that they be very careful with their language and their comments.

Mr. Laughren: That is why I did not call him a liar, but I could have.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Dis-le donc, dis-le. Ça ne me fait rien, moi.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: You say things like that, you have to expect that sort of response.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: You started off, my friend, a long time ago.

Mr. Laughren: You should know better.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: You should know better too because I think I know as much as you.

Maybe I did not go to school enough.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would remind all members to keep their comments on a less-than-personal basis.

Are you ready to proceed? Thank you.

Mr. Laughren: You started it.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: You started it. You called me a liar first, so watch that word.

The fund will be managed in an account separate from the consolidated revenue fund. The government will also examine the feasibility of having a financial institution manage the fund moneys to maximize its earnings.

Again, I repeat to members, there will be a rollback for this year of Nordev. The reason for this is three years ago this program was put in

place and the previous government had put \$10 million and this money was spent. When we added another \$20 million to the northern development fund, which was finished this year, and then to continue this program which is a very good program, I decided to use some money of the heritage fund this year for this.

At the same time, I asked for a sunset review which will be presented to the board. If the board at that time decides that this program shall continue, it will be up to it, because I think this program could be a good marriage with the heritage fund and to have something for small industry, to help them.

If they choose to do something else with it, that will be their problem.

The board will be established and composed of northerners, broadly representative of all facets of northern life, small and large business, industry and labour, manufacturers and tourist operators, women, francophones and natives. Some of the members of the board will come from the northern development council.

The board will be responsible for establishing specific criteria for the fund disbursement, but its broad mandate will include providing assistance to single-industry communities experiencing economic disruption from layoff or shutdowns, assisting with the development of new technology, especially the resource sector, helping small businesses to get started or expand their operation, and supporting special projects that promote the long-term growth and diversification of the northern Ontario economy.

The fund will complement and not duplicate the existing government activities except Nordev. The board will carefully review relevant existing programs at the provincial and federal government levels to identify those areas in which its own investment will be most useful.

Again I reiterate that we do not want to duplicate other programs.

1540

Many of the members will be aware that the ministry's highly regarded northern Ontario regional development program, which was slated to expire two years ago, was able to continue due to the commitment of the northern Ontario development fund. Nordev will closely reflect one of the major aims of the northern Ontario heritage fund, to provide incentives to create jobs and start or expand small businesses in the north. A portion of this fund will be used to support continuing private sector initiatives under the Nordev program.

I want to reiterate that this will have a sunset review which is being done and I will bring that back to that board.

Une chose que je veux dire, c'est que le conseil d'administration sera chargé d'établir des critères précis régissant le déboursement des fonds. Son mandat est le suivant: venir en aide aux collectivités qui dépendent d'une seule industrie, qui connaissent des difficultés économiques causées par des mises à pied ou des fermetures d'usines; participer au développement de nouvelles technologies, particulièrement dans le secteur des ressources; venir en aide à la création ou à l'expansion de petites entreprises; appuyer des projets spéciaux qui favorisent le développement économique à long terme et la diversification de l'économie du Nord de l'Ontario.

En plus, ce Fonds sera géré indépendamment du Fonds provincial du revenu consolidé, et tous les intérêts et les fonds non utilisés à la fin de l'exercice financier seront conservés pour l'année suivante.

Ensuite, je dois dire que le comité sera formé de personnes du Nord choisies parmi les associations municipales qui existent, ou les mouvements ouvriers, fermiers, jeunesses et, en plus, les autochtones, puisqu'on doit se rendre compte que les autochtones dans le Nord, surtout au nord de la 50^e, nous sommes en train de les organiser dans un conseil économique, et puis avec ça, nous savons qu'ils auront besoin d'argent. Alors, je vais demander au comité de gestion de voir si on pourrait attribuer un certain montant peut-être aux autochtones pour les aider à se développer.

Mais je dois rappeler que tous les autochtones ne vivent pas seulement au nord de la 50^e. Il y a des autochtones qui vivent dans le Nord de l'Ontario dans les îles Manitoulin; ensuite sur la route 17, comme sur la route 11. Alors, je vais demander à d'autres associations de nommer certains de leurs représentants pour qu'il y ait de la justice dans la représentation des autochtones au sein du comité. Je crois qu'il devrait y avoir au moins des représentants de l'assemblée de Nishnawbe-Aski. En plus, il devrait y avoir des représentants du Conseil numéro trois, et ensuite, d'autres qui représenteront le reste qui font partie des Chiefs of Ontario.

En plus, je dois rappeler aux honorables députés que le Fonds sera mis dans un compte à part, et ce Fonds sera géré au mieux, dans des institutions que le Trésor nous désignera, puisque nous sommes régis par certaines lois.

Je dois rappeler également que, si ça a pris du temps... je suis d'accord que ça a pris du temps, mais je dois rappeler aux personnes du Nord et

aux députés qu'il y a eu une élection depuis ce temps-là, et puis lors d'une élection, le parlement ne siège pas.

Members who have experience know that you do not pass a law overnight, especially when you are going to make some loans. You have to have the whole thing in place. Since the announcement by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) a year ago, there has been an election, and when we came back there was the throne speech. Then we started over here and we found out that we needed a law because we were going to lend money or give grants. That takes more than one or two weeks.

When the law is passed—I hope it will pass as fast as possible—at that time the money will be transferred to a separate bank account and draw interest. I am going to repeat that this is for 12 years, to the year 2000. I think it is a victory for the people of northern Ontario to have a fund which is outside the consolidated revenue. Somebody told me it is the first time in this province that a fund like that has been implemented. Maybe it was done before, but in the last 20 or 30 years, apparently, this is the first one.

Ensuite, je voudrais rappeler aux personnes du Nord et aux députés que les autres programmes qui existent vont continuer. Il reste encore deux ans et quelques mois au Fonds du développement du Nord. Cela veut dire qu'on va dépenser encore 20 millions de plus, sans tenir compte de ceux-là. Il reste à peu près 40 millions à dépenser encore pendant les deux prochaines années dans le Fonds du développement du Nord, qui a été mis en place en 1985 ou 1986. Alors, ça va nous aider encore pour les prochaines années.

Ce que je suggère, c'est que le comité se rencontre au plus vite, puis encore là, je vais essayer de nommer le comité d'ici quelques semaines, choisir les membres et, après ça, les amener devant la Chambre pour les faire accepter — je ne connais pas les règlements — par la Chambre ou le Cabinet, puisqu'il faut que ce soit accepté.

M. Pouliot: Ça presse.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: Ça presse. Moi, je sais que ça presse, mais je dois rappeler au député de Lac Nipigon (M. Pouliot) qu'une loi, ça ne se s'adopte pas en une semaine. Je dois lui rappeler encore qu'il y a eu une élection après l'annonce de ça et que, durant l'élection, la Chambre n'a pas siégé. Elle a commencé à siéger tard cet automne, et puis on continue. Je sais que d'ici quelques semaines, quand ce sera adopté, je ferai mon possible pour satisfaire les désirs du député

de Lac Nipigon pour que ce fonds-là soit en place.

Mais je peux lui rappeler aussi que durant l'année qui vient de s'écouler, il n'y a pas beaucoup de projets qui ont été refusés dans le Nord.

I want to remind my honourable friend that during this past year there were not too many projects that were refused, worthwhile projects that were refused, in any program we have, because to spend the money prudently—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Who decides whether they are worth while?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: There are people in northern Ontario who can decide on their own what is worth while. Most of the programs in the north are administered by northern people. The Northern Ontario Development Corp., the northern Ontario regional development program and the northern Ontario tourist information centres enhancement program, all are being run by people in the north in some way or other.

On top of that, there were other programs which, in consultation with the northern development councils, were recommended and are in place.

One thing we are looking at is to try to use this money outside other programs, because too many times—I look at the Fednor program today that is going to be implemented by the feds. When I look at their criteria or their terms of reference, there are some which are going to touch our programs, so I have to go back to them and try to negotiate with Fednor to be sure that this program will maybe top off some of their program or supplement it, but I do not want them to be the same.

It is going to take time for the board to decide on the criteria. I do not want them to take nine months or 12 months, but still, they will have to decide, too, what they want to do with the money.

I know there will be a debate, but after this, I think everything will flow the right way. I know people will say it is not enough, but still, I want to remind members that it is \$360 million over 12 years, and that is on top of all other programs that exist in northern Ontario, so I am pleased today to move second reading of this bill.

I would like to apologize to my honourable friend the member for Nickel Belt, because he is a good friend of mine and sometimes, dans le feu de l'action et du fait je parle trop vite... mais je m'excuse. I ask his forgiveness for this.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Sometimes? Regularly.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Not regularly. Sometimes, he likes to push me, too. Still, I think we are all working for the same cause, for northern Ontario, and I think at the end we will all be pleased with this fund.

Mr. Laughren: I wish to comment. I will temper my remarks somewhat, given the last minute or two of the minister's speech.

I think he should know why I chuckled and laughed derisively, if you will, when he said the \$30 million was on top of all other programs, except that one program, Nordev, would be cut back. At that point, I did have to laugh at the minister because, throughout northern Ontario, there is a mixture of anger, disappointment, and in some cases, downright laughter at the \$30 million a year.

I remind the minister that it is a year ago now, almost to the week, that the \$30 million was announced. A year later, they announce it again. Not that there is now \$60 million in the plan, last year's and this year's. Oh, no. It is \$30 million. Is it any wonder that northerners such as I are disappointed in the way this minister has not been able to deliver for northern Ontario, when he leads people to believe he can? Increasingly, people in northern Ontario are asking, "How much clout does René Fontaine have in northern Ontario?"

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I'm not shy at all.

Mr. Laughren: That is exactly what people in northern Ontario are saying.

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Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Nobody works harder for the north or does more for the people than René does.

Mr. Laughren: We are not talking about people working hard. We are talking about people being able to deliver the freight. That is what we are talking about. It is not a question of whether or not he works hard.

I ask the minister what he expects when he promises \$30 million twice, which in my mind totals \$60 million, and then delivers only \$30 million.

Mr. South: New math.

Mr. Laughren: What kind of new math is that? That is right. The member says that is new math. It is not new math for people in northern Ontario. They are used to being promised something and then not having what was promised delivered.

Mr. Pope: I just want to comment to the member for Nickel Belt. I expected him to defend himself and his party against the com-

ments made in Kirkland Lake last Friday that the reason this bill has not been introduced is the stalling tactics of the New Democratic Party. That was stated by the Minister of Northern Development as the excuse for not proceeding over the past two years. I was amazed that the New Democrats had that kind of influence on the administration of the Minister of Northern Development and the administration of the Liberal government.

The member for Nickel Belt is quite right. There has been hocus-pocus played with the northern Ontario regional development fund, and we are now seeing it come to fruition. I know the Minister of Northern Development and the Minister of Mines (Mr. Conway), who is sitting with him and who has been involved in this entire exercise, will both stand up and explain what is really happening to the Nordev fund, since there seems to be growing interest among members of the assembly and the people of northern Ontario over its fate.

I know the shell game has been an interesting one for the Minister of Mines, whom I hold responsible for this matter. I presume that he will stand up and defend himself and the honour of his government on this.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: What I said in Kirkland Lake was about the bells ringing. I said if they want us to pass one, we should pass that law, and then we should go on with the show.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First of all—the ding-dong—in answer to the member for Cochrane South, I would like to tell him that Nordev was put in place by his government. They put \$10 million in it and that was the end. They never saw more than two years ahead in their lives in northern Ontario. If they had seen, they could have put in that Nordev program for 10 years, at least, as we are doing, and 12 years for the other one. They did not. It was a two-year program. We added another \$20 million for three years. Now we are adding more for this year to finish the program.

I do not think that program will be scrapped. That is not true. It will be up to the board to decide if that program will continue and in which form it is going to do it. That is my answer to this. I never said that Nordev would be scrapped.

Mr. Pouliot: I am pleased to have the opportunity to say a few words regarding the long-awaited second reading of Bill 116, whose objects are to promote and stimulate growth in our special part of Ontario, namely, northern Ontario.

The members will be aware that for well over two decades, our party has been the advocate of a northern heritage fund whose allocation would help the people of the north to look to the future with confidence and allow them to plan so that they too, at long last, could join the economic mainstream of Ontario. Therefore, it is little surprise that our party respects and agrees with the intent and the spirit of Bill 116 and its rationale. However, we are deeply concerned about the sincerity of the government.

We recall only too well that it was on May 20, 1987, almost a year ago to the day, when in this House the same Treasurer, during the course of a budget statement allocated some \$30 million towards the so-called northern Ontario heritage fund. That was one year ago. When I and other members of our caucus asked the Treasurer what had happened to that \$30 million and whether he would he make the commitment that the \$30 million would be added to the born-again heritage fund of 1988 so that the people of the north would indeed receive the \$30 million that was owed to them in 1987—add to it the \$60 million—to give some “significance” to the fund, to get the show on the road. The Treasurer said no, he had no intention.

Then I went to see the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) and asked him, “Minister, what has happened to the \$30 million that was announced by your colleague with great fanfare?” He said: “I put it in the 12th year. I put it at the end.” Now the minister says: “That’s OK. The future can last a long, long time.”

Little wonder. We are not dealing here with a mathematical genius emanating from Harvard. We are not asking for that. We do not ask him to solve complex problems of nuclear physics. We are not asking for that. We are not asking the minister to give us a lecture on Greek mythology. What we prefer is an honest, straightforward approach. That is what we are asking for. That has been the criterion that northerners have set for over two decades and that the members of our party have been advocating for the last two decades.

The last budget tabled by the Treasurer, 11 months later to the day, called for \$30 million out of a budget of some \$38 billion. By any standards, that is less than one tenth of one per cent. “Here’s \$2. Take the eight kids out, have a great time and don’t come back until Monday.” This is what they think of the north. When the minister gets up and tries to defend this indefensible position, he talks about a wide range

of subjects, he is all over the map, but he talks very little about the heritage fund.

Thirty million dollars out of a budget of \$38 billion. This kind of announcement, although welcome in intent, generates very little money. The minister has as much clout as Mickey Mouse when it comes to delivering the goods. It is not enough money.

The point is well taken. The minister means well, but there is no money; it fuels suspicion. In fact, I heard it said last weekend in the great riding of Lake Nipigon, “Gilles, that lack of sincerity represents government at its worse.” I said: “I can’t believe that. Give the people a chance.” Well, they said: “Gilles, patience is a virtue. We believe. We’ve been waiting for over three years and they have failed to deliver. I’m starting to wonder. Do they mean what they say?” I said: “Give it a little more time. Give it a little more time and the minister will come up with another fine declaration.”

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“Heritage Money Will Flow by Year-end, René Says.” That was last weekend. Very timely. Then he has the audacity and the gall to go on to note that, and I quote, “the current delay is because of the stalling tactics of the opposition.” This time the bell got stuck; the bell rang. This kind of ding-dong approach is truly representative of the lack of seriousness in what this government, represented by this minister, is doing for the north. Thirty million dollars will buy 15 miles of new road in northern Ontario. The riding I have the honour of representing has 114,000 square miles. At this rate, we will never get there. Nevertheless, in my usual positive fashion, I go back to the intent, to the spirit, to the rationale: Indeed it is a step in the right direction; if only the money accompanied the bill, things would be OK.

Let me highlight some of the shortcomings. If the funds were of some significance, we could direct them at health services. The Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) for over a week has talked, with all the sincerity at her command and at great length, about high tech in the health system, about a world-class system second to none, a system that is very functional.

In northwestern Ontario, we have a lack of medical specialists and a shortage of specialized health service workers. We need expansion for homemaker services, support for new hospitals, hospital renovations, health care clinics and health care centres. We should have provision of health service workers in small and isolated communities, homes for seniors, small nursing

homes and small apartment complexes. We need support for midwifery, for it to be legally recognized and funded, and support for health education projects so that we can better attract and retain health services that are so badly needed up north. The list goes on and on.

When dealing with specifics, is the minister talking about establishing a medical faculty at Lakehead University that could oversee the formation of programs so that we would have, in quotes, a referral system extraordinaire, up north where we have a specialist whenever we can get one and are able to see one? We are referred to a specialist and a specialist refers us to another waiting list down in southern Ontario. We have had enough.

Since 1982, they have hit upon good times—enjoy, enjoy; time to share and share alike, comrade. They are at the peak of an unprecedented economic recovery in the year of our Lord 1988. The times are good times, and what are they doing? It is now that you plan. You do not plan when the going gets rough, when you have to do some patchwork and some Band-Aid solutions. You plan when times are good.

We have had so many studies and they all point in the same direction. We had the Fahlgren report; the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra) knows that. We have had recommendations from the Rosehart report, pointing in the right direction. It talks about forestry, which employs 80 per cent of the people in northern Ontario. It talks about the dilemma which is faced because previous governments. I do not want the present government to carry the guilt—it would not be fair—but where today we are beginning to see more and more the result of mismanagement, a resource that was taken for granted no longer guarantees that tomorrow will bring prosperity to northern Ontario. Something needs to be done.

Will \$30 million begin to address what is 80 per cent of our economy in the north? A pittance, a few drops, when we need, not an ocean but at least a small lake. It does not even begin to render justice to the north.

I could talk about roads. If we are to expand our economic base, the road system, more so than perhaps any part of Ontario, is so important to the people of the north. Again, \$30 million will barely build 15 miles of new road in 1988 dollars. Now the minister again has the audacity to say, "But it will be \$30 million each year." It is hardly worth anything now. What will \$30 million be worth in the year 2000?

Hon. Mr. Conway: Nothing I know is more audacious than this speech.

Mr. Pouliot: My God. The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) has a long history of being silver-spoon-fed. He still knows very little about mining, but by virtue and reason of how the system works around here, he could keep the chauffeur and the limo, so the government gives him the Ministry of Mines; not an easy task with a multitude of people to try to keep happy, and to keep track of the Minister of Northern Development can indeed be a full-time job. I can well see that.

Madame la Présidente, si vous me permettez d'ajouter quelques mots en français, je me souviens très bien des premiers jours, des premières années, quand je me dirigeai vers Manitouwadge comme la plupart des gens qui l'ont fait depuis ce temps-là, comme ceux qui l'avaient fait auparavant. J'y étais venu en passage de deux, peut-être de trois ans. J'y ai vu les gens, qui sont maintenant de chez nous, exporter les ressources naturelles de notre pays du Nord de l'Ontario: les ressources minières, aussi les ressources forestières. Ensuite, j'ai aussi vu les gens exporter — oui, exporter — les fils et les filles de chez nous pour qu'ils parfassent leur éducation ou qu'ils aillent à la recherche d'un travail plus approprié et plus lucratif ailleurs.

J'y ai vu, comme grande finale, maintes gens qui, après avoir oeuvré dans le Nord de l'Ontario, après y avoir passé des périodes de cinq, dix, quinze ou même 25 ans — les ressources naturelles s'étant envolées, nos fils et nos filles n'y étant plus — s'exportaient eux-mêmes. Nous avons eu chez nous, pendant des décennies, un manque de racines, et la raison en est que la planification économique n'a jamais eu lieu.

Better than anyone before, this minister had an opportunity to give us the tools to plan for a better future. I believe the minister. I really think the minister is sincere, but I cannot help but be suspicious when there is so little money to do a job that should have been done some years ago.

J'aurai l'occasion, sans doute, de m'exprimer encore, dans un proche avenir, sur le projet de loi 116. Je vous remercie, Madame la Présidente.

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Mr. Brown: I appreciate the concerns that the member for Lake Nipigon has expressed on the behalf of northerners.

I would like to point out, however, that yesterday the Minister of Mines and I drove in my vehicle to Elliot Lake, where we toured Rio Algom and Denison Mines, met with both mine managers and union people and attended the

meeting of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. I got the impression from the people in my constituency that they most appreciated the Minister of Mines' knowledge in that area.

Mr. Wiseman: Did you brief him well?

Mr. Brown: He helped brief me.

I would also like to point out that from my constituency's point of view, we believe the heritage fund is a very good thing for us. We have two large single-industry towns in my riding: Espanola and Elliot Lake. They are very interested in the \$360 million that this government is committing to the north. They believe that diversification of the economy is important. They believe that we cannot have all our eggs in one basket.

They understand full well that this government has committed over 50 per cent more to roads and numerous other programs so that northerners are taking a full part in Ontario. They also know that this is a topping-up fund. This is more extra money. This is extra money for all of northern Ontario. They believe that it really will help. I would appreciate the member's comments on that.

Mr. Wildman: I want to congratulate my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon on his cogent remarks.

I am little concerned, though, about the remarks of my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) with regard to my colleague's speech, particularly when he called this new, so-called northern Ontario heritage fund a "topping-up fund." We are indeed concerned that if the government sees this as another way for, for instance, the Ministry of the Environment to avoid having to give adequate assistance to small municipalities in the north for water and sewer projects. The Ministry of the Environment will then just simply go to the Ministry of Northern Development and say, "All right, let us use the northern Ontario heritage fund as a way to top up the grant for the water and sewer projects so that the municipality's share is somewhat less."

Frankly, if that is what is proposed by this government, then it is completely inadequate, because what should be done of course is for the Ministry of the Environment, in the example I have proposed, to give adequate grants in the first place so that the municipality does not have to have such an enormous share that it has to then go to another ministry and ask for a topping up. If this is a topping-up program, then it is completely inadequate. But frankly, I think it must be that,

because with only \$30 million a year in the program it is very small.

When you consider that this amount of money is to be used across northern Ontario for development, it is so small that it could not be for much more than a topping-up program, because if you are going to have any major projects and any major investments, it would not take very long to deplete a \$30-million fund. So it cannot be for major development and diversification. It must be for something else. As my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin has indicated, it is indeed apparently for topping up.

Mr. Pouliot: At the risk of sounding repetitious, in time the minister will share it with me perhaps, it is hard to penetrate. We have no objection to the spirit and the intent. What we are saying is that the Treasurer promised us \$30 million in 1987. We did not get it.

If it had been said outside these premises, it would have been regarded as quasi-fraud.

Mr. Laughren: Breach of promise.

Mr. Pouliot: Yes. Some people would have said that it borders on an act of thievery. Someone said he is going to pay you, it is in the mail. My friends remind me on a daily basis of other one-liners but I do not want to be repetitious.

Suffice it that, if you add to the \$30 million that we did not get some \$34 million that was generated from the revenues from the softwood duties, that is \$64.4 million. That money was to be put aside to train and relocate people. So, when people say, "We was robbed," they are right. That is \$64 million. One really wants to believe but one is not given a chance to do so. We like the fund. We like the approach, but it is really very, very little money.

We appreciate that it will be a separate law. The minister tries to remind members of the official opposition that it is never enough. We are the first people here, with our colleagues in opposition, to say, when something is done well, "We congratulate the government." We do not say, "But, however..." We are sincere people. What we are saying is that the people of the north deserve more money. It is as simple as that—no more, but no less than that either.

Mr. Pope: I am pleased to participate in this debate as the critic for our party for Northern Development. At the outset I have to say that, since the time I was appointed, last October, as the critic for Northern Development, I have been allowing the minister time, within the cabinet context, to develop his strategy and get the approvals through for the administration of his

programs, as he saw fit, without publicly questioning or criticizing him. He knows that is true. But now, as critic for my party, it is time to comment on the product of those efforts over the past six months and I intend to exercise my obligations in doing so.

I have to say that I am pleased that the Minister of Mines is here because I want to tell him that I do not think he has been as forceful in his support for the Minister of Northern Development as he would have been had he had the economic interests of northern Ontario at heart. We see that today in the disgraceful announcement of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) with respect to the Temagami wilderness area.

I say to the Minister of Mines and the same Minister of Northern Development, who, over the past three weeks in northern Ontario, has been saying that northerners alone should be settling this matter, and who now must surely admit today that northerners alone did not settle this matter, that, in fact, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) ignored his advice and ignored the virtually unanimous opinion of the people in economic groups in northern Ontario with respect to the resource utilization in the Temagami wilderness area. The Minister of Mines copped out. He copped out on the mining industry. He copped out on the miners of this province and he refused to support his Minister of Northern Development.

Because of that, the area of highest undeveloped mineral potential in this province will remain unexplored and undeveloped. The Minister of Mines would not stand up for the mining industry of this province and would not support the Minister of Northern Development because of that. The area with the highest undeveloped geological potential will not be developed for the benefits it will provide to North Bay, to the Timiskaming district and to all of northeastern Ontario. The Minister of Mines should be ashamed of himself for not standing in his place in cabinet and supporting the Minister of Northern Development.

I want to say that the Minister of Northern Development has been very frank that this has been his priority over the past month, that he was addressing the issue of resource utilization in the context of park development in this province. He is quoted in newspaper after newspaper as saying that this will be his priority, that he will speak for northerners and northerners will have their say and their way in the allocation of resources in northern Ontario.

It did not happen, and I repeat what I said earlier. The Minister of Northern Development has not had the support from his cabinet colleagues that he deserves when he speaks for all of us in northern Ontario, regardless of what party we support, regardless of what side of the House we are on. This Minister of Northern Development has not had support from his cabinet colleagues, who have refused to understand the economic necessities and the economic lifestyle of northern Ontario and who refuse to come to his aid.

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Now we have another project of the Minister of Northern Development. It is my obligation, as critic from my party, not to frustrate the efforts of the minister to get this bill through—we do not intend to do that—but to pass comment on what legitimately has been a long-standing debate in northern Ontario, a long-standing philosophical dispute, really not involving the Liberal Party at all, historically, but really between the members of the New Democratic Party, who first stood for a northern heritage fund in the election of 1975, to my knowledge, in northern Ontario, and the members of our party, who philosophically disagreed with the establishment of a northern heritage fund, for reasons that I will amplify in a few minutes.

The Liberals have just recently joined this debate, and it is interesting to examine the philosophy behind that decision. First of all, in the elections of 1975, 1977, 1981 and 1985, I philosophically disagreed with the establishment of a northern heritage fund. Why? Precisely for the reasons that the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, the Liberal member, gave just a few short minutes ago.

Is this fund going to be used by other ministries as a slush fund for funding northern Ontario instead of meeting their own obligations as line ministries to help and support the communities and people of the north? Is it going to be given over to the Minister of Northern Development so they can wash their hands of the needs of northern Ontario for proper municipal services, transportation services, social services, health care services? Are they all going to say, "René has it in his slush fund, the northern heritage fund; so forget it northern Ontario, go to him"? Is that their only answer? Is it going to be used, as the member for Algoma-Manitoulin said, as a topping-up fund to deny the obligations each line ministry has to the communities and the people of northern Ontario to meet their special needs?

I think the member for Algoma-Manitoulin let it slip. I think he has just enunciated the government policy on the use of this fund, and that is why he has removed himself from the chambers. I saw the Minister of Mines escort him out. I can understand that. No one was supposed to say anything about this during this debate, and somehow it slipped out. Even the Minister of Health cannot believe what the member for Algoma-Manitoulin just said. She is shaking her head with disbelief.

Let us talk about the strange machinations over the last three years with respect to funding in the Ministry of Northern Development. Let us talk about the allocations that everyone is so proud of. I have my own chart, but I will just read it out. It tells a very different story from what has been said in this Legislature, announced by the Minister of Northern Development and the acting Minister of Northern Development, and the reality of this government's financial commitment to the Minister of Northern Development and to northern Ontario.

I first want to acknowledge clearly what the Minister of Northern Development has said before, that there has been an increase in the road budget in northern Ontario in the past three years, from \$86 million in 1985-86, \$86.6 million in 1984-85, to now \$105.8 million this year in his own estimates.

Interjection.

Mr. Pope: The minister is disagreeing. He does not even know, therefore, that he has been cut back by the Treasurer already. Is this part of the constraint target? Is this what we are now being told? His own estimates: \$105.8 million.

Let us look at the commitment to air services. In 1984-85, it was \$6,642,000, and it is now \$4.5 million. There has been a reduction of over \$2 million by this government since 1984-85 in support of air services to serve the communities and people of northern Ontario.

Rail and ferry service: in 1985-86, it was \$19,291,000; this year it has been reduced by approximately \$1 million, to \$18,330,000.

Economic development in the Ministry of Northern Development budget: in 1980-81, it was \$56,483,000; in 1981-82, it was \$67,678,000. It was comparable in 1982-83. What is it this year, according to the Ministry of Northern Development figures? I know it is hard to reassemble it based on the restructuring of the estimates book that started in 1985-86, but I can only tell members that in the economic development envelope, as it now is stated in the estimates

of the Ministry of Northern Development, it is \$14 million, down from \$67 million.

Let us look at ministry administration, however. Here we see dramatic increases. In 1985-86, it was \$3,771,000, according to the ministry's own estimates. That is on a par with the estimates over the previous four years of ministry administration. There was no dramatic increase or decrease. This year it is \$14,390,000, a dramatic increase of almost 100 per cent in a year. This is at the same time that the support for the economic development envelope has declined dramatically; it is at the same time that economic support for air services for the people of northern Ontario has declined dramatically; and it is at the same time that there has been a slight decline in the support for rail and ferry services. As well, it is at the same time that there has been an increase in road construction costs funded by the Ministry of Northern Development, combined with a decrease in the northern Ontario resources transportation committee funding over the past three years.

Community services have virtually remained constant from 1983-84 to the present day. Community infrastructure, if you can extrapolate that out, has gone from \$13,053,000 in 1982-83, down to \$7.5 million in 1987-88, but we do have community relations officers to the tune of \$4 million under this new minister.

I have to say that those are the actual numbers taken from the estimates book of the Ministry of Northern Development, and I think it leads me, as a northern Ontario member of this Legislature, to question what the real priorities are for this minister, and more important for this Ministry of Northern Development with respect to the Treasurer and the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) and how they are treating the Minister of Northern Development.

However, I want to deal with the legislation and pass some comments. First of all, very briefly, I have no objection to any kind of designated fund with respect to new job opportunities and new economic development opportunities in northern Ontario. We had such a fund, that we ourselves used, called the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development in 1981; and under the BILD program we developed forest management agreements, we helped modernize the pulp and paper industry, we developed the aeromagnetic survey program, we developed the industrial mineral program that Algoma-Manitoulin benefited from.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: You topped up existing programs.

Mr. Pope: No, we did not top up existing programs. The member who thinks he knows everything about economic development knows nothing, but he is a Liberal.

1630

We had modernization of the sawmills as part of our speech from the throne in 1985, an economic development program.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It didn't come in.

Mr. Pope: Because the minister would not put it in. That is why they do not have it, because the Liberals would not implement the modernization of the sawmill program when they came to power in 1985. They would not proceed with it. It was not important enough. The bush workers and the mill workers in northern Ontario were not important enough for the new Liberal government to modernize these mills. What a disgrace.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: They had 40 years to modernize.

Mr. Pope: We provided over \$100 million in the modernization of pulp and paper mills, and the Liberal Party opposed it. The Liberal Party opposed it at the time.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: There was a 40-year deficit.

Mr. Pope: The same member, the member for York Mills (Mr. J. B. Nixon), who does not know anything about it, tries to offer an opinion on that issue as well.

We have no objection to designated funds for economic development and employment creation in northern Ontario. We ourselves, in 1982-83, when over 7,000 resource workers were laid off in this province, had a section 38 funding program with the federal and provincial governments participating, and those 7,000 laid-off resource workers were put back to work and they are now engaged in full-time occupation in northern Ontario.

What has the Premier (Mr. Peterson) done for the laid-off resource workers? He came to Sudbury on January 3, 1987, and announced: "Hey, guys, I know you're out of work here. We'll take the \$30 million from the softwood lumber tax and we'll have a training and employment development program for laid-off resource workers." Big applause in Sudbury.

Three months later, what did he say here in Toronto? He said: "Forget that one. We'll put it into a heritage fund." That was over a year ago. Do members remember that? Over a year ago the honourable member who is looking at me now was not even here then. The government is just implementing something that is a year old.

We do not object to any kind of envelope, statutory or otherwise, which the Minister of Northern Development wants to bring in if it is going to stimulate economic development and job creation in northern Ontario.

Why do we need this legislation, which the minister claims he needs to set up this fund? I do not know. I have yet to have an explanation as to why he thinks he needs a statute to dispense money in this province when he has the act establishing the Ministry of Northern Development which gives him that power and he already dispenses grants through the Ministry of Northern Development.

Explain to me, table the legal opinions, get the staff out here and tell me exactly why he needs a specific law to dispense money in northern Ontario when he did not need it for the last three years for all the economic development programs he has been involved with. Why does he need this law in order to do this? Explain to me why.

Explain to me, if he needs this law to give the existence and the *raison d'être* of this fund, why he has not put in this legislation the principles and the criteria for the dispensing of that money. Why has that not been placed in here?

The minister says the northern development council, the administrative board, will decide that. The northern development councils have been waiting for a year for the minister to give clear guidelines, and his staff and his administration have refused to do it.

The northern development councils have asked to have the criteria, the ground rules, laid out for them so they can make the decisions, and they have been frustrated every single step of the way by a bureaucracy that refuses to answer their questions, refuses to give them guidelines and refuses to help them. That is the reason there is total frustration among the northern development councils across the north right now.

Interjection.

Mr. Pope: Oh yes it is; because there have been no guidelines and no guidance given by those who are responsible to the north.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member will address his remarks to the chair, and the Minister of Northern Development will make comments afterwards, not during.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If the member would take a breath once in a while.

Mr. Pope: Which one?

Mrs. Marland: I can't understand what he's saying anyway.

Mr. Pope: Who are you talking about?

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Cochrane South.

Mr. Pope: Yes. Relax, Mr. Speaker.

There is a discussion in section 5 of the objects of the corporation. Boy, that must have taken all of five minutes. Where are the criteria, the objectives of this fund? Is it going to be a topping-up fund, is it going to give additional grants on top of existing ministry programs, is it going to fill in some sort of gaps?

I heard the Minister of Northern Development say that it is going to be dealing with single-industry towns when they have layoffs. This government has an obligation to those communities anyway. That has nothing to do with a heritage fund for economic development. The government of Ontario has an obligation to every community in this province and to every worker in this province, regardless of where he or she lives.

Is the government saying that because they are from northern Ontario it is the problem of the Minister of Northern Development and no one else in the government is going to lift a finger to help laid-off workers or single-industry communities, but if it is southern Ontario everyone will get into it? Is that the government's attitude? Is that the signal it is going to send out to northern Ontario communities and northern Ontario workers?

That is why I think it is appropriate and necessary to clearly set out the criteria and the objects of this northern Ontario heritage fund. We have a right to know exactly where this money is going. If the objectives are economic development, new industrial development, new job creation or training, fine; then there will be some certainty. The northern development councils will have an idea about what recommendations and what signals to put out to the communities in northern Ontario.

If that is the case, fine. Tell us how the Ministry of Skills Development will dovetail into that program, tell us how the Treasurer will allocate money to that program, tell us how the other ministries will also aid our Minister of Northern Development in these same objectives. Lay it all out so we clearly understand that it is not just a slush fund, it is not just a reason for other ministries to deny their obligations to the north because it is the north. Tell us precisely what is going on.

I would ask the minister, at the appropriate time—and perhaps it will be in committee—to explain to me exactly what he is talking about

with respect to the northern Ontario regional development program. Exactly what are we talking about? That fund is set at \$28 million this year.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No.

Mr. Pope: It is not? OK, that is very interesting to know. What then is the budgetary commitment to Nordev this year? In the estimate books of the Ministry of Northern Development, including Mines, what is the allocation? Members remember Nordev. The minister says it was due to expire in 1985. Not so. The minister says that.

I can recall an announcement by the Premier of a \$100-million Nordev fund; \$20 million over five years. All of a sudden, the Minister of Northern Development has rewritten history. It is now only three years and it is only \$10 million a year. What happened to poor old Nordev? Twenty million dollars a year for five years becomes \$10 million a year for two years.

There has been too much of this with respect to the Ministry of Northern Development budget, too much change of names and game playing, too much of winding up and winding down of funding programs, not enough certainty for the people of northern Ontario, those who wish to take advantage of these programs. Poor old Nordev. Now, obviously, the signals are clear. That budget commitment is going to be wound down, it is going to disappear and the money will disappear with it.

It reminds me of the first allocation to Nordev that this new government made in the 1985-86 estimates. Do members know what they did? They allocated \$10 million to Nordev. Guess what they did with the economic development package and the social development package in that same estimate book? They reduced them by \$10 million. And this was supposed to be new money? Give me a break. Those guys just tinkered with a few labels and that was the end of it. There was no additional allocation whatsoever.

I think we are entitled to know where this ministry and this government are going with respect to the funding of economic development programs for the Ministry of Northern Development.

1640

It is fine to talk about a \$360-million program over 12 years. We are talking about \$30 million a year. Or are we? What other changes are there going to be?

We are going to lose the Nordev program and those millions of dollars; it is going to be

wrapped up. Are we going to increase the northern heritage fund allocation by the amount of the estimates for the Nordev program? Is it going to be more than \$30 million? Is the minister going to stand up right now and announce that?

While we are talking about the initial startup budget for the northern heritage fund, it seems to me that basic mathematics indicates there is \$30 million from last year, there is interest on that money from last year—let us say 10 per cent; that is another \$3 million—and it is \$30 million for this year. That is what the Premier said; it must be true. I mean, the Premier said that; it must be true.

So where is the \$63 million? Where is the \$63 million that northern Ontario industries have already paid out in the softwood lumber tax? Where is that \$63 million in the northern Ontario heritage fund?

All of a sudden—it must have been tremendous deflation or something—it is now \$30 million. Where is our \$33 million that the Premier promised? I do not know, it must be there; the Premier said it was there, it has to be there. I mean, he would never—no, he would not do that; it has to be there. Give us our \$63 million in the northern Ontario heritage fund program.

It is going to be deposited in the bank? In what bank is it going to be deposited? What branch in northern Ontario? OK? In what branch in northern Ontario is our \$63 million going to be deposited? I have not heard any specific announcement. The Premier said it; it must be so. It must be so; the Premier said it. What branch of what bank in northern Ontario is our \$63 million in today, and who has the right to sign cheques on that account?

I think if we are talking about a separate, independent fund controlled by someone in this administration, I think the very basic details, the banking arrangements—surely you can tell us what the banking arrangements are. Is it located in the Sudbury branch of the Royal Bank, the Thunder Bay branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce or perhaps the Timmins branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia? It must be in one of those branches somewhere in some bank in northern Ontario; and I will bet René Fontaine has signing privileges on \$63 million in that fund. I will bet.

It has got to be so; the Premier said it was. The Premier said it was going to happen.

Mr. Laughren: Do you think the Premier always means what he says?

Mr. Pope: I do not know if the Premier always means what he says. I used to take him at his word.

Since Nordev has been folded in on top of that, that is another \$25 million or \$28 million, so it is 63 plus 28—we are now up to \$91 million, and I presume that is on deposit somewhere and the minister just has not told us yet. The \$91 million is there; I am sure of it.

The fact of the matter is this government has delayed, without justification, implementation of this program.

First of all, they stole it from the New Democrats, an idea that was 13 years old. Clearly something that the New Democratic Party has put before the people of this province in elections, honestly standing up and saying what it would do, what its vision was for the development of northern Ontario. I continue to disagree with the philosophy behind it, but at least it was there. It was part of their traditional platform vis-à-vis northern Ontario.

But here we have a Premier who promised, a year ago, \$30 million. He has not delivered on it. Now we have a repetition of the \$30 million and, for some strange reason, we need legislation.

I compare that with Fednor, the Northern Ontario Development Advisory Board, a program that was announced just a few short months ago, which has already settled the criteria for the allocation of funding and which is already receiving applications for approval and for distribution of funds. If members compare that administrative effort with the sham that has gone on with the Liberal government of Ontario, there is no comparison whatsoever.

I say to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, who thinks it is a topping-up fund, let us make it more than that. If the Minister of Northern Development is being sandbagged by the cabinet, he should stand up for him. He should stand up and help him and make sure that the northern Ontario heritage fund creates new jobs, creates new abilities for northerners to get jobs in a new technological age and creates new economic opportunities for diversification of northern Ontario economies.

Part of the legacy of this Legislature is written by northerners who are not part of my party. It would do the member for Algoma-Manitoulin, the member for Port Arthur and the Minister of Northern Development well to read the parting speeches of Elie Martel and the former member for Port Arthur, Jim Foulds, when they talked in very emotional terms about what kind of future they saw for their children in northern Ontario and where they saw the economic opportunities for their families in the future, given the status quo of the north.

In our party, we have had the BILD program, the modernization of the pulp and paper mills and a rapid expansion of mineral exploration through the aeromagnetic survey program. Yes, we have had our ideas. We have tried them out. The Liberals have the right, as an elected government, to develop their ideas and that is part of what the Minister of Northern Development is doing now.

But they should make it more than a topping-up program. They should make it more than a stopgap fund for other ministries to deny their obligations and responsibilities to the north. They should make it something that is of permanent benefit to the young people of northern Ontario. Then they will have done their work well. But they should not come in with a very generalized bill, with no guidelines, no criteria and no specific hope for our communities and our people in northern Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments?

Mr. Brown: I will give it a whirl.

I was much interested in the comments of the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope). I want to make clear to him that the government does not see this as a topping-up fund in terms of adding to the present programs but as additional money for northern people.

The second thing I would like to talk about is that he mentioned in his address the increase in the administrative cost of northern development. Most of that money, as the member would well know, is going to move the ministry to Sudbury to provide jobs for northerners to administer it locally. We think that is a good thing. Perhaps the member for Cochrane South does not believe that we should have our own administrative support staff in Sudbury, that we should have all the support staff in the Ministry of Northern Development working in the north.

Those are just a couple of points I would like to make. I wonder what the member has to say.

There is one more. Maybe I should point out that the government also is moving, altogether, 1,600 jobs north and spending \$200 million on new buildings in the north. It will have a payroll of \$48 million. Maybe the member could inform the House how many jobs his government moved north.

Mr. Laughren: Since the discussion has veered towards the transfer of jobs to the north, I think the member for Algoma-Manitoulin should understand very clearly that this party—and I am sure the third party, as well—supports the move of civil servants to northern Ontario.

But I trust that he will never try to sell to the people of Ontario, and particularly the people of northern Ontario, that moving civil servants from Toronto to Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie or North Bay is a substitute for economic development. That is what he is implying, I think, in his remarks, and that is certainly not the kind of economic development that northern Ontarians expect from this government.

1650

Mr. J. B. Nixon: I found the debate about northern development very interesting. It is something that everyone likes to talk about; indeed, all three parties have talked about it. But this is the first government that has committed itself to a statute which will specifically enshrine the right and entitlement of northern Ontario to a commitment of a government to northern development.

I would also like to point out that the third party has indeed talked about economic development in the north for years. What they used to do, let us not forget, is sit around for four or five years and do nothing. Then Dr. Stewart and the Premier of the day would get together and develop a BILD program—a BILD program based on initiatives and programs they should have done in the last four years. They would call it an election program, have an election and then completely forget the BILD program because it was nothing more than an election platform. It was not a statute. It was not a commitment to a heritage fund, as this legislation is built on.

The Deputy Speaker: Are there other comments? Rotation. The member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan).

Mrs. Marland: Rotation, Mr. Speaker? Excuse me, did you say “rotation”?

The Deputy Speaker: Yes.

Mrs. Marland: The last speaker was a member of the government.

The Deputy Speaker: That is right, and the New Democratic Party—

Mrs. Marland: And now you are going to another government member.

The Deputy Speaker: We will go with the member for Lake Nipigon then, if he wants to speak.

Mr. Pouliot: Many of my colleagues are getting “really sick and tired” of having the present government blame the ancien régime. It is only too easy. After all, it has been more than three years since the election of May 2, 1985.

The government cannot spend 90 per cent of its time blaming the people before it.

The present government, it is a well-known fact, believes that the marketplace always chooses better. It is symbolic. It is mythical with them that if they let the marketplace be, things will take care of themselves. The Premier said so. As my friend the member for Cochrane South has said, the Premier would not, the Premier would not.

So he goes to Sault Ste. Marie. Then he goes to Thunder Bay and establishes role models. Those people are entrepreneurs. What is needed is a massive injection to supplement the entrepreneurial spirit of the north. We cannot do it by ourselves. If we acquiesce, if we agree that we need more help up north in a sort of blended economy, then we have to agree on the same hand that \$30 million does not suffice.

That is what we are saying. We are saying that we do not want to see studies. The time for more studies has gone. We have been studied to death. The previous administration, yes, spent upwards of \$50,000 to establish that Rosspoint was located on water. We want some direction. We want some action. No excuses. The time for excuses has gone.

Mrs. Marland: It is singularly significant, I think, that this afternoon the members who are now commenting on the very relevant and very accurate comments of my colleague the member for Cochrane South on this bill this afternoon are newly elected members. For that I would forgive them their lack of knowledge of the history of the Progressive Conservative government in this province and what it has done for the north.

The truth of the matter is that the Progressive Conservative government did not need to enshrine something in legislation because when it said something it was not an election promise that had to be enshrined. There were in fact many, many programs that our government introduced and our government fulfilled.

I think, with respect, the people who are commenting today might well listen with respect to someone who has sat in this House for 11 years, who has been a minister of the former cabinet of the Conservative government and who is committed and passionately dedicated to the north. I think the members would fare well to listen very seriously to his arguments, comments and presentation this afternoon. Perhaps, if the member were to do that, someone who represents a riding as urban and as south as York Mills might also benefit from that knowledge if he were to listen.

The Deputy Speaker: For 20 seconds, the member for Brampton South.

Mr. Callahan: In 20 seconds it would be very difficult to explain what did not happen in 42 years. The north is certainly a very special commodity for all of us in this House and I think it augurs well that we should work together to try to solve that problem. It bothers me somewhat to hear the criticism for the first step by a government that, as my friend the member for York Mills said, has been enshrined in legislation.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member's time is up.

Mr. Callahan: Northerners for once have something carved in stone as opposed to carved—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Pope: The Baron from Brampton would not know anything about it anyway. He would not take the time to inform himself so I am not really worried about what he has to say.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin, in his response today, and I think a week ago, tried to address the issue that I raised in my budget speech with respect to the increase in ministry administrative costs of the Minister of Northern Development.

Somehow, Liberal arithmetic is this: if you transfer jobs from one place to another, those are all new dollars. They are existing jobs being moved from one part of the province to the other, but somehow that justifies a doubling of the ministry administrative budget from \$7 million to \$14 million with not one new job created. A shift of jobs from one region to the other justifies an increase of \$7 million in one year in the administrative expenses of this ministry.

Yet the member for Algoma-Manitoulin really had the nerve on two occasions to stand up and try to justify that. Amazing. It is the same kind of economic theory that our Treasurer engaged in in the development of his budget. It is astounding. No wonder the economy of this province and the budgetary expenditures of this government are out of control. It is absolutely amazing.

The member probably supported the Treasurer in his budget too, did he not? Sure. I mean, what is wrong with a 48 per cent increase in administrative costs here in Queen's Park over three years? That is great stuff. It is the poor people of the province who have to pay for it and do not get the services. We are not talking about an increase in services.

If the member for York Mills would spend more time examining what has gone on in the

past and some of the successes, if he would care to admit for once that there might have been the occasional success—

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time is up. Order.

Mr. Pope: —he might have a different message.

Mr. Kozyra: It gives me great pleasure to rise and speak in favour of Bill 116, especially since, quite coincidentally, there is a group of students from Thunder Bay in the audience today; from Prospect Avenue School, I understand. I was unable to get my picture taken with them for having to sit here, listen and participate.

The members have all heard of the Rosehart report. In that report there were 82 recommendations made in relation to northern Ontario and development there. To date—and it is a relatively short time in terms of the way the political process works—the government has implemented a majority of those recommendations. This one before us today is one of the most important and will have perhaps one of the greatest effects on people in the north; including the future generation, such as those students we have in the gallery.

I am not sure where the member for Cochrane South, who has now left, is getting his information on the northern development councils, how frustrated they are and so on. I have had the pleasure, in assisting the Minister of Northern Development, of having a very close working relationship with northern development councils over the past seven months. I know for a fact that, for a three-month period, the northern Ontario heritage fund and the terms of reference were the top priorities on the councils' agendas.

Each council is represented by 15 members from the region, representing a cross-section of that region. Every one of those councils debated and discussed this very closely and in great detail and came up with an extensive list of terms of reference. I helped to co-ordinate those terms of reference and pass them on to the minister and his people for inclusion.

1700

I can give members some of the highlights. First, nowhere in those terms of reference and recommendations do they talk of "topping off." That was never discussed. That was never an issue. That was never the intent.

In the terms of reference, all nine councils agreed on several key points. Uppermost in their minds was equalization of opportunity. It was extremely important. The Premier has spoken to

this effect. He said that the north, in certain ways and under certain conditions, is still considered disadvantaged. It is the government's commitment in a general way, and this is one of those aspects where equalization of opportunity will proceed.

Job creation was the next on their list. Third was diversification of the economic base, and the fourth general term of reference was a priority to single-industry towns and high-unemployment areas. They then proceeded to break those down into more detail, into other areas for their recommendations to be incorporated into this mandate.

Receiving very high support from all nine councils were the following: business development, especially small business development. The small business orientation would focus on young entrepreneurs; new and unique ventures; service industries. It would take the form of awards and incentives, and a corporate tax holiday was also considered as one of the aspects.

Research and development was also a priority. They talked of pure and applied research in resources, forestry and mining. They talked of northern development consultants; northern development, from the north, not from the south. They talked of crisis, rainy-day-funding situations, where single-industry towns would once again be a priority.

Another item high on their list was one-stop shopping, a clearinghouse for all the government programs, a communications database, a simplification of the multitude of programs which now exist and tend to confuse those who would wish to be helped. They talked of marketing of the north, a promotion and strategy and business centre that would help the northern communities to tap into the larger market of the south and make the south aware, to a greater extent, of what is there.

They talked of expansion of existing business and industries as well. Receiving lesser support but still mentioned for consideration in their terms of reference were things like infrastructure, tourism enhancement, transportation and skills development.

These are the kinds of things that the northern development councils concentrated on and put forth as their recommendations. They are not contained specifically in the bill in that way. They will go forth as a mandate, as a direction, to this management board.

In speaking of the mandate, notice how closely what is stated, what is intended, approximates to

what the northern development councils had recommended. The mandate, as indicated, says single-industry communities, technology development, small business development, special projects which promote the general mandate of the northern Ontario heritage fund: a close parallel to the kinds of recommendations.

It is difficult to see where the criticism comes that the northern development councils are not functioning, are not having their input and are frustrated. They have had tremendous positive input and are very gratified to see the kind of direction this heritage fund is taking. It is a reaction to northerners speaking out for the north. It is a direct incorporation of their recommendations.

In response to the question of what kind of projects the fund will support, eventually it will be up to the board to determine that. However, the general aim is to promote the long-term economic growth and diversification of northern Ontario, and support community initiative and self-reliance.

What is different in this fund from other funds—and I think it is worth enunciating this very clearly, because the opposition tends to take great relish in knocking this, saying it is insignificant in amount, a “topping off”—the differences here are what make this—

Mr. Wildman: Your member said “topping off,” not us. That is unfair.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kozyra: If I may clarify what the member meant by his “topping off,” it was on top of existing and ongoing programs. If the member reads the text closely, he will see that.

What is different about this fund? It is a long-term commitment, a minimum of 12 years, and that length of time is of extreme credit to the minister, who fought long and hard for that longevity.

It is a substantial commitment, \$360 million. The official opposition keeps knocking that, keeps minimizing it; the official opposition keeps demeaning this amount as insignificant. They keep distorting the truth by not indicating that this is over and above everything else that is in place. That is a significant amount. It is an amount and a fund that other areas of the province are envious of and it is something the north can be proud of.

The board will be made up of a cross-section of northerners, and only northerners.

The corporation will keep its funds in its own account, separate from the province's consoli-

dated revenue fund. That is an extremely important thing. It will not be assailable by other funds as they run low.

All the unspent funds in any one year will remain in the fund and will be carried over for use in the corporation in future years. That is a major departure from how the general fund is operated as well.

The corporation has the authority to invest any funds not needed in the short term and interest earned will revert to the corporation's account.

Finally, the board has the responsibility of defining its own specific terms of reference, consistent with the act—a tremendous amount of authority and responsibility given to northerners to speak for and do for the north.

How is this mandate different from what the government is doing now?

Once again, the northern development councils had tremendous input into this. Through the consultation, one message has come through loud and clear: northerners want to help themselves. This is one major vehicle of doing that.

The opposition has raised the question, “Does this fund mean the end of all other northern funds and programs?” The answer unequivocally is no. All existing government of Ontario program commitments targeted to northern Ontario will be met.

What will the relationship of the board be to Fednor, the federal government, and other levels? One intention of the heritage fund is to complement, not duplicate, other existing programs. The corporation has the freedom to co-operate with any other organization it wishes to, and officials from Fednor have already expressed an interest in co-operating with the heritage fund. I think that is a commendable situation. The two levels of government often vie with each other and compete, instead of working together.

How will the board be appointed? The board of directors of the corporation will be appointed after the enabling legislation is passed by the Legislature. The sooner we move on it, the sooner the board can be appointed and move into action.

When will this board be announced? As the minister has already stated, when this legislation has been passed by the Legislature.

How long will this fund be around? When Dr. Rosehart, president of Lakehead University and chairman of the committee that produced the Rosehart report, commented on this fund, in all truth and honesty he did indicate that he felt \$30 million a year was smaller than what he had

hoped for. But he continued on to say the longevity of the fund, the 12 years, and the possibility of its continuation, were far greater than he had hoped for. I think that speaks very well, again, of the commitment of the government and the strength of the argument the minister put forth for this fund.

1710

How will this board of the heritage fund be accountable to the people of Ontario? That is extremely important. It is important that it not make the mistakes other funds have made and turn good ideas into sour and embarrassing things.

There are a number of mechanisms that are going to be put in place to make these board members accountable to the public. The board of directors is responsible for preparing an annual public report of the corporation's activities.

A memorandum of understanding will be signed between the board and the government of Ontario outlining all the obligations and responsibilities of the board. The Provincial Auditor will prepare annual audits of the corporation and the board will be responsible to undertake a thorough evaluation of its activities in year four of its term.

Where will this board be located? The decision has not been made other than that it will be located in some municipality in the north.

There has been some question this afternoon too on the relationship of the northern Ontario heritage fund, the northern Ontario development fund and Nordev, the northern Ontario regional development program.

The northern development fund is a \$100 million commitment made by the government in 1985 to expand provincial programming to northern Ontario. Many new initiatives in economic development, tourism, education, native development and other areas are being implemented under this fund. The heritage fund is being undertaken in addition to the northern development fund and would be controlled by this board.

As for Nordev, it was originally funded as a three-year, \$10-million program. All the funds were committed but not spent before the three-year period expired. The northern development fund was used to extend the program's funding by another \$20 million and its time period by five years. Because of Nordev's popularity, the full \$20 million was committed by the end of 1987.

Since part of the mandate of the heritage fund is small business development, it is expected that

the fund will want to extend the funding and time period of Nordev.

What will be the relationship of the heritage fund to the northern development councils on an ongoing basis? It is anticipated the board will use the northern development councils as a means of gathering input into its discussions. As members know, the councils are there to advise on government policies at the present time. Moreover, some northern development council members will be members of the northern Ontario heritage fund board.

Finally, what will be the relationship of the heritage fund to the Northern Ontario Development Corp.? NODC will continue to be an important agency of the Ontario government and the northern Ontario heritage fund will co-operate closely with NODC in dealings with private sector organizations.

In conclusion, I firmly believe that when the heritage fund receives enabling legislation, it will be a great historic day for northerners and northern Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments?

Mr. Pouliot: I too wish to welcome the people who are paying the member and the assembly the compliment of a very timely visit. I know the member for Port Arthur is committed to the welfare, and the improved welfare in the future, of the north.

Again, I am a little puzzled that he chooses to be on the defensive. After all, he mentions that the government is under siege. We do not have a minority situation here. There are only 19 members representing the social conscience, coupled with 16 members—or 17, my apologies—as representatives of the free enterprise system. It is simple mathematics. It is really an amazing puzzle.

The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development has mentioned that eventually, in the tone of "if and when," we might get around to spending \$30 million. We are not talking in terms of Taj Mahals here. We are talking in terms of a mere pittance, because that is all.

On the intricacies of how the government is going to spend, how many people will have to get together, the minister is going from a can of worms in terms of process to nothing short of a bag of snakes. Really, the terms are not too strong. This is no big deal. Ask the people of the opposition. They will tell the minister how to spend it very, very quickly. It does not take long to spend \$30 million: 15 miles of road. Then we

will wait until next year, go to tender. Fifteen miles of new road up north; no big deal.

The minister has a lot of problems and I do not want to share his problems, but I want to wish him well. I think he will need all the luck and the perseverance he can get.

Mr. Pope: Very briefly—OK, they are gone. Now I want to talk to the parliamentary assistant. I think we deserve some answers out of this parliamentary assistant.

The Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, first, if there were nine points of agreement on the objectives of the fund, why are they not in the bill? If that was the consensus of the councils, why not have the good grace to accept their opinion and put it in the legislation? I do not understand this. There is a generalized “objects” clause. The ministry could have added what the consensus of the councils was. I guess it may not accept that consensus; otherwise, it would have put it in the bill.

The parliamentary assistant says this fund is going to be unassailable because it is in law. I would refer the member to subsection 6(2), which says the minister “may.” “The minister, out of moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature, may make grants to the corporation...” It does not say, at all, that he must deposit \$30 million a year for the next 12 years. He may deposit whatever he pleases and under whatever conditions he pleases, so do not tell us the law says something it does not say.

While the parliamentary assistant is answering those questions, maybe he can answer something the minister has not yet answered. Under the 1988-89 estimates, in the ministry’s estimates book, the amount for the northern development fund is \$28.7 million. The amount for the northern Ontario heritage fund is \$30 million. If the northern development fund is being rolled into the northern Ontario heritage fund, is that going to be \$58 million or not?

Mr. Wildman: I listened with interest to the comments of my colleague the member for Port Arthur, and I am concerned about a matter similar to that the member for Cochrane South is worried about.

I am very unhappy with this bill, in that it is in a way an empty bill: It basically leaves it to the corporation to decide its terms of reference. In the three years since it came to power, you would think the government, with its northern development councils, could have developed terms of reference. If there was an agreement on terms of reference, why are they not in the bill?

Also, it is interesting that the parliamentary assistant indicated that the government has as yet not even been able to decide where the corporation should be located. What on earth takes so long? Why is the government bringing in legislation that basically says a fund is going to be established, but leaves it wide open as to how this fund is to operate, who is going to operate it, and does not set forward clear criteria for determining how the money will be disbursed, how it will be used, how applications will be accepted and how the board will operate. I do not understand why it is so difficult. Why are we asked to pass a piece of legislation that simply establishes a fund, without saying how it is going to operate?

Mrs. Marland: We heard the member for Port Arthur talking about the advantages of the northern Ontario heritage fund because it would provide “an equalization of opportunity.” I think those were his words. I am wondering, when this member uses these words, if he has given any thought to the equalization of opportunity for the people of the north to be heard by this government.

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I am wondering what putting money in this fund will do to improve that, because we had well demonstrated as recently as about three weeks ago—and the member for Lake Nipigon will witness this fact—that when the people of northern Ontario, in particular the people who live in Trout Lake, were not being listened to by this Liberal government, they travelled 1,200 miles down to Queen’s Park in order to be heard about a particular problem that they had, a very real, very serious, very severe problem, namely, extremely high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in their environment and in their blood count.

What kind of reception did those people from northern Ontario receive from the Liberal government? Not one single back-bencher, let alone the Minister of the Environment himself, had the courtesy to go out and receive these people on the steps of this Legislature.

I have to wonder about the sincerity behind a fund that is set up by a government that does not even listen to the people when they want to speak to it. When those people travel here, because the government does not go there, this government does not care enough about them to address those very real concerns.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you. The member’s time is up.

Mrs. Marland: I have to worry about what will happen when this fund is in action.

The Deputy Speaker: There is no more time. Does the member for Port Arthur wish to respond?

Mr. Kozyra: I think it is worth repeating the four general concepts the northern development councils put forth as strong recommendations. I think it is also worthy of understanding that they can only advise. It is really a statement and a tribute of confidence in the north, in northerners and in this board, which will be composed entirely of northerners, that a mandate did not come down from on high in cabinet, which is not entirely composed of northerners, restricting them as to what they could or could not do.

There is extremely strong direction given under these four points and the nine highly supported items, but it will be up to that board to work with them to develop the mandate. There will be ongoing input from northern development councils. I think it is a distortion of what has been heard to indicate that somehow what will proceed is totally against what has been recommended.

The four things recommended are equalization of opportunity, job creation, diversification of the economic base and priority to single-industry towns in high unemployment areas. Surely no one, especially a board composed of northerners, would find fault with that and go against that mandate.

There was a comment as to \$30 million being a mere pittance. Let me say that some years ago, a federal minister lost his seat over referring to \$1 million as, "What's a million?" Members opposite should not call \$30 million a pittance.

Mr. Wildman: It is with great pleasure that I rise to participate in the debate on this legislation.

As members will know, I have taken some considerable interest in the proposal for a northern Ontario fund over the years. It has been a long time coming.

Members will recall that when the former member for Algoma-Manitoulin finally persuaded his government that it was a good idea to establish what was then called the Ministry of Northern Affairs in 1977, my former colleague from Sudbury East, in a debate on that piece of legislation, moved amendments that would have established a fund. At that time, his amendments were not carried by the House. They were not accepted by the then government or by the Liberal opposition at that time.

I congratulated my colleague the member for Algoma-Manitoulin at that time for having the tenacity to argue that there should be a northern Ontario ministry. Some people cynically suggested at that time that the main reason he was

interested in having a northern Ontario ministry was that he was the only northern Conservative member at that time who did not have a cabinet post. However, unfortunately for Mr. Lane, prior to the establishment of this new ministry, the then Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable Leo Bernier, got into some problems, was removed from his Ministry of Natural Resources and moved to Northern Affairs, so poor John Lane did not even get his cabinet post out of the deal.

At any rate, he did not want just to have a cabinet post for himself; he wanted to have a ministry that was concerned with northern Ontario and would deal with the need for northern Ontario development. I think it was most unfortunate, though, that the government of the day did not choose to establish, as part of that legislation, a northern Ontario fund.

We have been talking about it for some time. I note that the current Minister of Northern Development, my good friend the member for Cochrane North, has been making a lot of statements across northern Ontario—they were referred to by my friend the member for Cochrane South—about the reason it has taken so long to establish this fund.

He said, and I quote, "The opposition won't agree and people are talking about it taking too long, but they should know how long the government takes." Frankly, I think that explains why it has taken so long. We all are learning around here how long it takes the government to do anything.

Mr. Black: Can't get the bills covered.

Mr. Wildman: No, he was talking about the government.

He then went on to talk about the situation in the Legislature at the time. This is a newspaper article I am reading. It says, "He also noted that the current delay is because of the stalling tactics of the opposition."

Mr. Black: Reading petitions.

Mr. Wildman: Reading petitions, ringing bells and so on. I want to remind the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) that—

The Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker.

Mr. Wildman: Through the Speaker, certainly. We in the opposition did not hold up the House for two years because of our concerns about the Sunday shopping legislation this government is hiving off to the municipalities. That is how long it has taken this government to act on a promise. They first promised it, and then last year, almost a year ago to the day, the

Treasurer announced it in his budget in 1987. And we waited and we waited and there was no stalling in the House. The minister said there was an election.

There certainly was an election, but the election did not take place until September. The legislation was promised in April, in the budget. There was no legislation in May or June. Then after the election in September, we of course did not come back, because the Premier did not want to face this House for some reason, until November 3 and still we had no legislation.

We tried to find out what the ministry was doing. I called the deputy minister and I talked to the minister. He said: "Oh well, we're working out the criteria here. We're working out how it's going to work. We're working this out. We've got a lot of problems getting it before cabinet."

That is what takes this government so long. They have so many problems getting things before cabinet. Well, he said he was working out the criteria, so when the bill came out, when the bill was finally tabled on first reading, I looked very carefully for the criteria that were so long in development and that were obviously so well thought out. But as the parliamentary assistant just stated in his speech, which I enjoyed, there are no criteria in the bill. There is nothing there. It says that the board, which will be comprised of northerners, which I think is a good thing, will establish the criteria.

What took so long then? If the government was trying to work out the criteria, what happened? They finally got embarrassed about how long it was taking for them to develop this legislation and bring it before the House, so they decided, "Well, we can't work out the criteria, so we'll bring forward the legislation anyway and we'll have no criteria in it."

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Interjection.

Mr. Wildman: I understand my friend the member for Cochrane North very well, I understand his commitment to the north and I feel sorry that he was unable to bring forward in this Legislature the kind of criteria he must have wanted and was working on for so long.

After my former colleague from Sudbury East introduced amendments in 1977, there was discussion off and on for close to eight years about the establishment of a northern Ontario fund, controlled by northerners, which would help to diversify the economy of northern Ontario.

Then in 1986 my former colleague from Port Arthur, the predecessor of the parliamentary

assistant, brought forward a resolution that was debated in the minority House for the establishment of a northern Ontario fund. During that debate on November 6, 1986, Mr. Foulds stated that what was needed was "an independent northern Ontario economic diversification fund, managed by northerners, in order to diversify the northern Ontario economy, especially in single-industry towns."

"Through loans, grants and joint ventures, this fund would be invested in development projects that meet the priorities set through community, regional and provincial planning, as well as through specific community resource planning agreements signed between the provincial government, the local communities and the resource industries involved."

That was a very interesting debate, and it is significant that the resolution was passed by the Legislature, so we had a statement of opinion by the Legislative Assembly that the members of the House supported the principle of a northern Ontario fund.

This is not something, of course, that just came out of the air. It has been noted by even the Treasurer in this House that the north produces a lot more wealth for this province than it gets in return, either through private investment or public investment by the provincial government. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk—is it still Brant-Oxford-Norfolk?

Mr. Harris: Close enough.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, no; it is Brant-Haldimand now. The member for Brant-Haldimand (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has admitted that perhaps as much as \$5 million more a year comes into the provincial coffers from northern Ontario than is returned by the provincial government each year. He admitted that something must be done, but we all know that the Treasury officials were opposed to the concept of a separate fund, a fund that would be administered by northerners and would not be part of the consolidated revenue fund, and for that reason I congratulate the member for Cochrane North in his work to try to persuade his cabinet colleagues to accept this principle that was accepted by the Legislature in November 1986.

But I want to make clear that the fund we have been talking about is very different from the kind of fund that is being proposed in this legislation. First off, we all recognize that northern Ontario is not experiencing the same tremendous economic growth that we are seeing in southern Ontario.

Mr. Swart: Parts of southern Ontario.

Mr. Wildman: Well, particularly, my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold says, parts of southern Ontario. I am speaking particularly about the Golden Horseshoe, the Metropolitan Toronto area, which is experiencing a boom. I recognize that other parts of southern Ontario are not growing as quickly.

Mr. Black: Napanee.

Mr. Wildman: Yes, I hear a member saying Napanee. Is it not significant that this government is giving somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$30 million, I understand, in loans to Goodyear to help it establish in Napanee? Is that figure not interesting: \$30 million for one project in eastern Ontario; \$30 million for the whole of northern Ontario each year? That shows what kind of commitment this government has to the north. You could not not even have one major development in the north to produce jobs with the amount of money that is promised per year with this fund.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am listening very carefully, and there are quite a number of members speaking at the same time.

Mr. Callahan: That's unusual.

Mr. Speaker: Very. I will listen to the member for Algoma, and I am certain he will address his remarks through the chair.

Mr. Wildman: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your intervening, because the other side was being provocative.

The fact is that the government, I understand, has also committed something like \$50 million for a Toyota plant in Cambridge—\$50 million for one project—yet we are talking about—

Some hon. members: It's a loan.

Mr. Wildman: Even a loan. All I am saying is that \$50 million is what is required to get jobs in Cambridge in one project, whether it is a loan, a grant or whatever, and all this government is budgeting is \$30 million a year for all of northern Ontario. It shows that there is really no commitment on the part of the government for economic development in the north.

If there were just one major project, which I would like to see, whether in Sudbury, North Bay, Timmins, Thunder Bay or one of the small communities in the north, one project the equivalent of either of the two I mentioned in southern and eastern Ontario, it would take the whole fund for one year. It would take the whole fund.

Mr. Smith: Does the plant want to go up there?

Mr. Wildman: That is the other problem we have been dealing with for so long, as the member for Lambton says. I feel sorry for the member for Cochrane North, who is having to deal with those kinds of attitudes over there.

As my friend the member for Lake Nipigon said, the market will decide. As long as the market decides, we are not going to have the kind of economic growth in northern Ontario that they have taken for granted in southern Ontario, and there is no way this kind of fund is going to do anything about it.

In northern Ontario we will continue to have double the unemployment we have in southern Ontario. We will continue to have outmigration, particularly of our young people. We will have the current stagnation. It is true that we have recovered somewhat from the recession of the early 1980s, but we have not in any way kept pace with what is happening in this part of the province, and this kind of fund is not going to do anything about it.

We had last year, at the time the federal government agreed with the American government on the softwood lumber export tax—which was acquiesced in by this government—a promise by this Premier that that money would be used to assist the lumber communities and the workers in northern Ontario who were being displaced by the additional cost of our lumber in the American market.

Over two years that has amounted to something over \$60 million in revenue that will be coming to this government from the federal government in transfers from the softwood lumber tax. The Treasurer has admitted in this House that not one cent of that has been spent to assist the communities which have been dislocated.

Is it not significant that, in one year, the amount accruing in the revenue from the softwood lumber tax is almost exactly the amount that is promised in this bill for the northern Ontario heritage fund each year? This government is not even committing any provincial funds for the northern Ontario fund. It is all coming from the transfers from the softwood lumber tax, which should never have been imposed in the first place.

When we talked about a fund, we talked about one that was patterned on the Alberta and Saskatchewan heritage funds. They are very different funds. In those cases, those provincial governments took revenue from their resource development, whether it be oil or gas or whatever, and deposited a significant amount of

capital in a fund, which would be self-perpetuating and would grow. They took a significant infusion of capital at the beginning, which would then be used over the years for economic diversification as the resources were depleted.

This concept proposed in this legislation is nothing like that. What the government is simply doing is establishing a program which will get \$30 million each year for 12 years. If the government were really interested in establishing a northern Ontario fund, it would establish its \$360 million at the beginning, not \$30 million a year. Proportionally, if we were going to establish a fund similar to the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund in this province for our northern area, we would be having to establish a capital fund of about \$500 million.

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Mr. Morin-Strom: Just to start?

Mr. Wildman: At the start. We would be prepared to see that money over a period of time, maybe over three years, so that then we have the fund, we have the capital which would accrue in interest, grow, be self-perpetuating and go on for over 12 years. I do not think it is unreasonable to talk about those kinds of figures when one considers the wealth that we produce in northern Ontario. Do the members realize that in stumpage alone this government receives between \$60 million and \$70 million a year in revenue from northern Ontario?

Over and above that, the mining tax, which is not very high, produces \$50 million in revenue for this government a year. So we are talking, in revenue each year, somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$120 million just from lumber and mining. If we get \$120 million a year in revenue, by God, we should be getting that much back at least. We are not.

When the Alberta fund was first established, did the members know how much money they put into it, what the capital fund was? Initially \$1.5 billion was invested in the Alberta fund and this government says maybe we should not see \$30 million as a pittance compared to \$1.5 billion?

Mr. Black: It is a different scenario—

Mr. Wildman: It is a different scenario, and that is what is wrong with this legislation. This legislation should have been patterned after that bill. The Rosehart committee has been mentioned in this debate. I am very interested in the Rosehart report and what has happened to it since it was published since, as the members know,

through the kindness of the Minister of Northern Development, three members of the Legislature were able to participate in that Rosehart exercise. I was one of those members. I have a certain commitment to the recommendations made by that report.

Particularly, I would like to deal with that recommendation that talked about the wealth of the north, the return to the north and what should be done in terms of a fund. I quote from recommendation 27:

“Historically, residents of the north have been concerned about the depletion of the natural resource base and the outflows of the mineral and forest wealth. Present estimates place the value of the northern minerals and forest production in excess of \$15 billion per year.” That is the total amount of wealth generated by forestry and mining.

The report goes on to say:

“Little of this money has traditionally been reinvested in the north and the situation is further compounded by the continued depression of base metal prices and weak commodity prices for pulp and paper products. At the present time a variety of government programs exist both federally and in Ontario that can be used to stimulate development of new business and industry. Such initiatives, although laudable, have failed to create a significant long-term focus for development in the north. It is the belief of the committee that the opportunity exists and the political will is present in Ontario to provide such a focus for development.”

Then it goes on and proposes a northern Ontario fund. Significant in that proposal, in recommendation 28, are these statements:

“(iv) an additional commitment financed through a percentage of provincial revenues from resource industry taxation. The appropriate percentage can only be determined by observing the initial operating year or two of the fund.

“(v) a negotiated yearly federal government financial commitment through the federal government’s Canadian jobs strategy program.”

Obviously, the Rosehart committee was talking about a lot more money than \$30 million a year and it was also talking about not revenue per year but the establishment of a capital fund at the beginning, which would grow. I was part of those debates and I know that is what the Rosehart committee was talking about. The parliamentary assistant admitted in his comments that Dr. Rosehart does think that \$30 million is not sufficient, and it is not.

I want to make clear too that our concept of a fund is not just a bad-weather fund, not just a fund to deal with the problems of one-industry towns in bad times. That was referred to, I think, by my friend the member for Port Arthur as well. It seems to me that we should be developing this kind of fund to assist particularly one-industry towns in boom times and not waiting for bust times to be investing money in the north.

If one has to look at the communities of Manitouwadge, Marathon and even White River in the Hemlo area, which my friend the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) is familiar with, we all know that there is an enormous gold boom going on there in one of the richest goldfields in the world. But anybody who lives and works in Marathon or Manitouwadge knows that those communities are as vulnerable today in a time of boom as they were when the base metal commodity prices bottomed out and there were layoffs in the mining industry.

The fact is that they are still dependent on world commodity prices and, in this case particularly, on gold prices on the world market. Everybody knows that, in the mining industry in particular, as soon as you open the mine the first day, you are on the way to closing it down because it is a finite resource and it is going to run out eventually.

We should be ensuring that part of the revenue that is coming from the Hemlo field is invested in this kind of fund so that we can be working to diversify the economies of those communities so they are not solely dependent on gold. Whether we like it or not, the fact is that the gold market is not going to remain the way it is now for ever.

I think that this legislation is inadequate. I think it is inadequate that we continue, in dealing with communities like Marathon and Manitouwadge, to give ad hoc government grants to these communities so they can deal with the boom or that we give more ad hoc grants to other communities that are experiencing economic recession so they can help to weather the storm of economic downturn.

That is not acceptable any more in northern Ontario. That is why it is accepted across northern Ontario that we should have a fund, that we should be diversifying the economy of the north, that we should be following the example of Alberta and Saskatchewan. While they are as vulnerable as we are in relation to oil-and-gas and potash, at least they have acted to provide themselves with some capital that can be used to try to ensure that the economies of one-industry towns are diversified so that they can continue to

operate and do not become the ghost towns that we have known, especially in the mining industry across northern Ontario, since the beginning of the development of the north. That is just not acceptable any more.

So what is necessary? It seems to me that we obviously need a lot more money in this fund. This is not adequate, and, for that reason, I will not support this legislation. It is inadequate.

We also need to ensure that this fund is indeed controlled by northerners. I know the parliamentary assistant has said that the board will be all northerners and it will decide its own criteria, but I want to ensure that we put ordinary, average working people in control of this fund and keep it out of the hands of the principals of the multinationals and the corporate interests that operate in the north.

This fund should not be just another source of government handouts to the resource companies, and I am afraid it might become that. This fund must be used to deal with the underdevelopment across northern Ontario that these companies historically have left in their wake in every small one-industry town in our part of the province.

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This bill is not adequate because it does not clearly spell out how the moneys will be used, the kinds of projects that will be used. I do not want the money in this fund to be spent on studies and more consultants, even if they are all northern consultants. Consultancy is the fastest-growing industry in northern Ontario. Whenever you do not know how to deal with a problem, you hire a consultant. If someone wants to make money in northern Ontario, he should become a consultant. For heaven's sake, he should not work in a resource industry or try to develop a small business.

This money should be used in joint ventures with government involvement, because the government has to play a proactive role in the northern economy. If it is left simply to the private sector, we will not be changing anything. We will just be giving it some of this \$30 million to help it continue doing what it has done historically in northern Ontario.

This fund should be a vehicle to return from the resource companies to the working people and communities of the north some of the wealth that they have produced. The fund must have guaranteed, ongoing moneys and must not be subject to the whims of the Treasurer of the day.

I think I have made clear what my concerns are with regard to this legislation. I am reminded in this speech of a comment that was made by a

great orator, a much greater speaker than I, Tommy Douglas, in which he once said about Liberal governments—

Mr. Dietsch: Nobody is a better speaker than you.

Mr. Wildman: Well, the member obviously never heard Tommy then.

Mr. Philip: I agree Tommy was a better speaker than you.

Mr. Wildman: I never claimed otherwise. Tommy once said of Liberal governments that they had a tendency to steal socialists' pyjamas. He said that and he was right. Liberal governments for years have been stealing our pyjamas, but as Tommy said, "For crying out loud, when you steal our pyjamas, wear them all, not just the tops."

Mr. Pope: I heard the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) comment on the dress of the Minister of Northern Development, but I am not going to get into that.

The Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. O'Neil) is here, the only winner out of the Temagami wilderness dispute today. He managed to preserve it for tourism, but no one else has a look in. I congratulate him.

I was interested in the comments of the member for Algoma and I wonder if he could comment on the fact that during the time that this government has delayed bringing in this legislation, the main office expenses of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines increased by \$666,000; the analysis and planning budget increased by \$123,500; the information services budget increased by \$403,500; the legal services budget increased by \$72,600; the financial services budget increased by \$909,100; personnel services increased by \$204,700; supply and office services increased by \$3,465,300, and systems development services increased by \$844,300.

I wonder if the member can comment on all these expenditures here in Toronto in the operation of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines while we waited for our northern Ontario heritage fund.

Mr. Callahan: It is somewhat unusual, I guess, to have somebody from southern Ontario rising on this, but I think some things should be put in perspective.

Mr. Philip: You're certainly the one to do it.

Mr. Callahan: I thank the member. I can always count on him for something positive.

The statement was made that the fund does not exist. The fact that the fund exists is clearly

covered under subsection 6(1), and people in this Legislature who are in the legal profession should understand that. It says "the corporation shall establish and maintain." It is mandatory.

As far as the investment of those moneys is concerned, I think the taxpayers of this province would expect that the moneys would continue to be invested so that they would in fact generate greater funds for northern Ontario and its development; but they remain within the northern communities' designation, within the northern communities' opportunities to solve a problem which I think every member of this Legislature understands is a problem that is unique and has to be solved. It was not solved over the 42 years of the previous government.

I might add as well, with reference to the objects, that this is a statutory corporation that has been set up. I think my friend the member for Cochrane South would understand the factor that if you spell out the objects too narrowly, what in fact you do is bind the hands of the minister and the boards in terms of using those moneys in a creative way to establish a new life for northern Ontario.

So I suggest that some of the arguments that have been put forward, particularly by those people who have legal training, are absolute balderdash. They are telling the people of northern Ontario things that are not correct. I suggest that the members look at them, because what this act does is give the minister the opportunity, with the use of boards and people in northern Ontario, to shape and to work out the problems of northern Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Callahan: —rather than limit the objects they have the moneys available for.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I would like to congratulate my colleague the member for Algoma on the points he made in regard to this so-called heritage fund that is being proposed by this Liberal government.

The real commitment to this fund is put in perspective when one looks at the contrast between the \$30 million they are going to put into this fund and what, by their own admission, is \$48 million a year to pay the salaries of 1,600 jobs going to northern Ontario. It costs \$48 million to buy 1,600 jobs in northern Ontario.

We have another investment, \$300 million by Goodyear, for which the government is providing a loan of over \$30 million. That would have used our whole fund in order to stimulate one

investment providing 900 jobs in southern Ontario.

We have in the order of more than 50,000 unemployed in northern Ontario and we have to address that problem. The size of this fund is not going to provide the kind of stimulus we need to have a significant impact on what is going on in the north. It is up to the Liberals to recognize that in fact this fund may be of some value 12 years from now if they do not squander it all and if we do have the \$360 million in place 12 years from now, but it is going to do very little today to stimulate new investment and provide the jobs we do need in the north.

Mr. Harris: I want to say that I enjoyed the remarks of the member for Algoma. As he indicated, it is a principle for which he has fought for a good period of time and it is a principle—I guess it was about 1986 that the Legislature concurred—whose time had come.

I share some of the concerns, however, that the member has put forward in that it really was not what was expected. I guess there are two things I might ask the member to comment on. One is the comments of the member for Brampton South, who commented on subsection 6(1). I would have thought that he, as a lawyer, might have had enough intelligence to read to the operative subsection, 6(2), but he did not.

Subsection 6(1) says, "Shall establish and maintain a fund known as the northern Ontario heritage fund." That is fine, but whether the Treasurer and the Premier appropriate \$30 million or not, subsection 6(2) gives the minister the discretion to say, "I have \$30 million here in my little hand, boys, but I am not giving it to you unless I agree with what you are doing." It says "may."

So when you talk about control in the north, you give them the money. You do not say, "May, if I am happy." So if the minister does not like what the people in the north want, if it is not politically suitable for him, my interpretation of this is that he may give them nothing. That is the operative section on which I would appreciate comments from the member for Algoma.

Unfortunately, these guys from the south do not read too good either, whether they are lawyers or not.

Mr. Wildman: I want to thank the members for their comments. I understand the remarks of the member for Cochrane South, and I agree that if you look at the amount spent on things like analysis, planning and communications in the ministry head office, it certainly makes the \$30 million promised in this fund pale.

I want to say to the member for Brampton South that one of the best decisions I think I ever made was not to go into law school, and I think his comments confirmed that in my mind.

I will say, too, that he wants to put this in perspective. He does not want the fund defined too narrowly. I tell him, this fund in this bill is not defined at all. As the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) said, with 50,000 people unemployed, we would very much like to see in any community in northern Ontario a government commitment similar to the commitment made to Goodyear in Napanee. But I will tell members, if they made the same commitment in any community in northern Ontario, that would use up the whole fund for one year. It would all be gone.

With regard to my friend the member for Nipissing, I think he is quite right that the operative article is subsection 6(2), and it is obvious from this that the minister has the final discretion and the final say. This is not an independent board in the sense that the parliamentary assistant tried to describe it. It is, in fact, still subject to whether or not it is going to get yearly funding.

That is why I say we have got to have a fund established, similar to the Alberta and Saskatchewan funds, with capital at the beginning, which will then become self-perpetuating and which the board could operate on its own.

À la suite d'une motion présentée par M. Harris, le débat est ajourné.

On motion by Mr. Harris, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
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 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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CADON
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No. 65

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, May 18, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 18, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

Mr. Swart: On Monday, the Ontario branch of the Consumers' Association of Canada at a convention in London threw its support behind a public auto insurance system for Ontario. This, as a matter of course, it had been researching for some time.

The association is aware of the false and misleading nature of the insurance industry brochures and ads prior to and during the last election. It knows how this Liberal government parroted those industry figures and otherwise was beholden to the insurance companies.

As reported to our hearings in January, the Ontario sector of the association knew that its counterparts, the consumers in Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Manitoba, rated satisfaction with the public systems in those provinces at nine on a scale of one to 10. Because it looked at the issue objectively, it knew that the increases applied in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia this year, put in perspective over a number of years, are only half as much as Ontario motorists have received. It knows the systems there are more efficient, more fair and cheaper.

This decision by the consumers' association is just part of the growing support for public auto insurance in Ontario. After this Liberal government gives another large interim increase shortly and after the new rate control board jumps rates further, the tide of public opinion will overwhelm the Liberals into bringing in a public plan or wash them out of office.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Mrs. Marland: I rise on a matter of deep concern today. It seems that we do not have a minister for the environment. Yesterday's announcement that there would be no public hearing on the environmental assessment of the Red Squirrel Road showed us once again that the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) refuses to uphold the mandate of his ministry. The minister said a hearing would only cause

undue delays in the construction of the road. What about the delays caused by his ministry?

If he had properly controlled the environmental assessment process of this project and called for a hearing when one was requested over a year ago, all parties would have had their rightful opportunity to express their position in the only environmental court available to them. If the minister had not procrastinated, yesterday's announcement would have been one that was based on a fair and equitable process.

I am disappointed that the Minister of the Environment did not have the courage to make his announcement yesterday solo. This is not the first time the Minister of the Environment has tried to slip something by us. A month ago he announced a review of the environmental assessment program. This is a major review and should have been announced in the Legislature to all members of this House. It was not.

This Liberal government must give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in this review. With yesterday's announcement, the minister has shown us that a review of the environmental assessment process and the role of his ministry is essential.

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mrs. Marland: It is time to open the doors to environmental justice.

EASTER SEAL RUN/WALKATHON

Mr. Beer: I rise today to bring to the House's attention an outstanding example of volunteerism in my riding. On Sunday, May 29, the 12th annual Persechini/Easter Seal 10 K Run/Walkathon will take place at Pickering College in Newmarket. The combined proceeds from the 12 years that this event has been run will this year hit the \$500,000 mark.

The success of this event is due to the crack team of devoted and long-serving volunteers and sponsors that Joe Persechini and the staff of his fitness centre have put together. People like Dave Blackwell and Rogers Cable 10 have worked with the event since its inception. Jack Spillette and his Canadian Tire store are the run/walkathon's longest and biggest contributors. People like Tony Van Bynen, Carol Laidlaw,

Caroline Prieston, Terry and Louise Carter, Dave Wood, Dwight Slessor and Lentini's and Hot Lips restaurants are but a few members of this devoted team.

This is a well-run and popular event which the citizens of Newmarket and York region look forward to each year. To offer proof of the widespread participation the run/walkathon brings about, I show members this picture of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) and myself at the finish line last year. The fact that we are alone does not necessarily mean we were last. We just do not want to give out our time.

This year I will be running, walking and crawling the course again and I challenge all members to support me and Easter Seals on Sunday, May 29.

ONTARIO FAMILY FARM INTEREST RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

Mr. Wildman: Today is the deadline for farmers to apply for the second year of the Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program. Members will recall that because of the serious debt crisis facing the farm community, last year the government agreed to establish in the second year OFFIRR Plus, the new Ontario family farm interest rate reduction program, which would pay 100 per cent rebates.

However, in this announcement of the deadline for the second-year applications, it was stated that the final year of the OFFIRR Plus program will provide coverage of only 40 per cent, as announced when the program was first introduced two years ago.

It seems that even though the farmers are facing serious debt problems, this government has backed off its commitment to assist the farmers to meet their interest payments in such a way that the farmers who are able to continue on the farm last year at 100 per cent rebate are now suddenly going to see a 60 per cent increase in their interest rate payments.

It is just unacceptable. It means fewer farmers are going to be able to remain on the land, and this government has not proposed any new programs to replace the OFFIRR plus at 100 per cent. It is just unacceptable. It shows that there really is no commitment on the part of this government to the farm community of Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Wildman: —and it is very unfortunate for the future of agriculture.

LIBERAL BACK-BENCHERS

Mr. Villeneuve: Yesterday in Guelph, when speaking to and about a 22-year-old gelding

named Guthrie, the Premier (Mr. Peterson) said to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), and I quote: "You could get that horse elected, Jack."

We on this side of the House believe that this already has occurred in a number of instances. Our mistake was to presume that the Liberal back-benchers were seals. Well, the secret is out. They are not seals at all; they are horses, geldings at that.

Let's look at the similarities.

First, whenever we want to introduce a resolution or a motion that makes good sense, what do the Liberal back-benchers say? "Nay," of course.

Second, what do horses produce in more quantity than anything else? What is their end product, you might say? It is barnyard fertilizer, exactly the same substance from which questions from the Liberal back-benchers are plucked, the mushroom gang.

Third, and in my opinion most convincing: The Premier, when talking about his potential new member, was referring to a gelding—a neutered animal unable to produce; a rather fitting description of Liberal back-benchers.

The similarities are uncanny. In fact, I would caution the member for Guelph (Mr. Ferraro) and the member for Lincoln (Mr. Pelissero), Liberal back-benchers, to watch their step when the Premier is sending them a message and a warning: "If you step out of line, Guthrie is waiting to take your place."

We got that from the horse's mouth.

1340

A. J. CASSON

Mrs. Sullivan: I know members of the Legislature will join me in paying tribute to the distinguished Canadian artist A. J. Casson on his 90th birthday, which was celebrated yesterday.

In honour of Mr. Casson, the last surviving member of the Group of Seven, the North Channel Preservation Society proposed, with support from the community and industry, and the Ontario Geographic Names Board yesterday made its recommendation, that a special recognition be made of his contribution to our Canadian artistic tradition.

As a result, and with the concurrence of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), the highest prominent outlook of Frazer Bay Hill, at the north end of Georgian Bay between Little Current and Killarney, will be named Casson Peak.

The peak is part of the La Cloche mountain range and many of Mr. Casson's best-known pictures, including watercolours painted from what will now be known as Casson Peak, are among his finest works.

This is an outstanding birthday present and a fitting tribute to a unique Canadian. Mr. Casson could not be here with us today. I know he is pleased with the honour bestowed upon him and that all members of the House will want to join me in congratulating him.

SUPERMAILBOXES

Mr. Philip: Residents of suburban municipalities have been discriminated against by the Mulroney government's postal policies. I commend the city of Etobicoke council for its resolution 130, which states:

"The council strongly urges the government of Canada to direct the Canada Post Corp. to:

"1. Immediately abandon its supermailbox program;

"2. Halt all projected installation of superboxes;

"3. Remove all supermailboxes at existing sites and landscape the area they occupy;

"4. Restore home delivery to all affected residents."

The resolution was passed and sent to all members of this Legislature and to all MPs.

Several new residential developments are planned in the city of Etobicoke and will commence in the near future. The council has expressed opposition to these residents being subjected to the supermailbox program when the majority of citizens in Etobicoke are receiving door-to-door mail delivery.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for members' statements. Statements by the ministry? None?

Mr. B. Rae: I have my copy right here.

Mr. Speaker: Oral questions.

Mr. B. Rae: I am a little taken aback, because I do have a statement but it was not given. I can understand reasons.

Before starting I might add, if I could on a point of order Mr. Speaker: because it was our understanding that the minister was going to be making a statement with respect to the birthday of A. J. Casson, I am sure others in the House would like perhaps to take a very brief opportunity to say happy birthday to Mr. Casson and how much we would have appreciated the opportunity to participate in the expression of solidarity from this Legislature with respect to Mr. Casson.

Mr. Wildman: How about unanimous consent?

Mr. Speaker: I understand the member is asking unanimous consent? Is that the wish of the House?

Agreed to.

Interjections.

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: I must offer my apologies to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae). I had been planning to make the statement, and I am very glad he stood up. I had felt that with the best wishes of an MPP, perhaps my statements would not have been received as well, but I am very pleased to make the statement.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

A. J. CASSON

Hon. Ms. Oddie Munro: It is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to one of Canada's outstanding artists, Alfred Joseph Casson, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Last evening many of Mr. Casson's friends gathered at the McMichael Gallery in Kleinburg to help celebrate with him.

As the last surviving member of the Group of Seven, a name which is synonymous with Canadian art, Mr. Casson is a link to this vibrant past, a time when he and his colleagues had the foresight and courage to shape a new and distinctively Canadian style of art.

Through Casson's eyes we all have seen in a new way the glorious splendour of the Canadian landscape. His oils, watercolours and pencil sketches, especially of rural villages and houses, are indeed, as he himself has acknowledged, a record of a vanishing society and a disappearing world. They are reminders of an Ontario known to our ancestors and serve as a record of our province's past for future generations.

But A. J. Casson's art serves more than an historical purpose. He has captured the colour and light, the patterns and designs which nature itself created. Yet Mr. Casson's contribution to all of us has been more than just art works. He has generously shared his time advancing Canadian art by serving on committees of such institutions as the Ontario College of Art and the Art Gallery of Ontario. He also has shared his knowledge with his colleagues in such groups as the Ontario Society of Artists and the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

On behalf of the government of Ontario, I would like to wish Mr. Casson, or Cass as he is affectionately known to all his friends, a very happy birthday and I would like to thank him for

sharing with all of us, as he calls it, his Ontario quest. Because of Mr. Casson's work and generosity, all of us are richer. May he have many, many more happy and healthy birthdays.

RESPONSES

A. J. CASSON

Miss Martel: As the critic for Culture and Communications for this party, I too wish to add our party's and my very best wishes to Mr. Casson on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

We all recognize his distinguished career and his priceless contribution to our culture in capturing so vividly the beauty of this province, including his truly memorable works resulting from the 1925 sketching trip to the north shore of Lake Superior with other members from the Group of Seven.

His art form developed into a distinctive mastery of oil and watercolour media. Casson revived and championed the watercolour medium. The small towns of Ontario were also preferred subjects of his. His distinctive style, the ability to simplify and eliminate nonessentials, culminated in such works as *County Store* in 1945.

As Robert McMichael wrote of Mr. Casson, "old buildings on the backroads of Ontario" have always been favourite subjects for his paintings. It is somewhat ironic then that Mr. Casson had painted the village of Kleinburg before the McMichael Gallery was even a dream.

All Ontarians and indeed all Canadians express their appreciation today. Paul Duval, Mr. Casson's biographer, probably said it best when he wrote: "Few persons have played as prominent a role in the development of recent Canadian art as Alfred Joseph Casson.... He can look back upon a career of achievement, which can be paralleled by few in the annals of this country's culture."

We congratulate him on reaching this milestone and wish him many happy returns.

Mrs. Marland: It is indeed an honour and a privilege to have this opportunity today on behalf of the Progressive Conservative caucus to share in the good wishes we are jointly sending from this Legislature to Mr. Casson.

Certainly, to be the sole surviving member of our famous Group of Seven is indeed a wonderful record in itself. To be such a talented artist, not only in one medium but in two, as Mr. Casson is with watercolour and oil, is itself a great gift.

With so many talented people, we are the rich recipients of their gift and their sharing of their talent with all of us. As we wish him happy

birthday, I think each and every one of us in this province who has had the opportunity to see the work of such a great artist feels that in saying happy birthday, we would also like to say, very much, a large thank you.

What a beautiful and permanent record of our great province this man is giving us and continuing to give us. How many of us ever leave a legacy that is so rich, so selfless, so beautiful and for ever? We thank you, Mr. Casson, and we wish you happy birthday.

1350

ORAL QUESTIONS

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. B. Rae: I have some questions again today for the Minister of Health. The minister will no doubt be aware that the Ontario Hospital Association has indicated that the total size of the deficit shared by all those hospitals which have a deficit, on an annualized basis over the space of a year, is in the area of \$53 million. This is the deficit the minister has instructed the hospitals they have to eliminate.

I would like to ask the minister if she can confirm that the \$53-million figure is the equivalent of 26,129 acute care patients' worth of service realignment. If I can put it another way, each \$1 million cut is the equivalent of cutting off 493 acute care patients. That is the level of the impact of the cuts which the minister is insisting the hospitals in this province will make.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think that the approach of the Leader of the Opposition is on the wrong track. What we have said, and we are working very closely with the Ontario Hospital Association, is that we have allocated resources to the hospital sector, some \$5.5 billion. We will be funding approved budgets and approved programs and then expecting the hospitals to live within that ministry approval. If they want to start new programs, they must have approval before they do that.

The Minister of Health and the Ministry of Health do not run those hospitals. They are managed by hospital boards and hospital administrators. We allocate the resources and then expect them to provide essential services to their communities.

Mr. B. Rae: If I can just again speak very directly to the minister, what she is saying is, frankly, nonsense. She knows full well that the hospitals that are being placed in this position by her and by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) have

no choice but to cut services that they are now providing, to reduce the number of beds and to lay off staff.

Let her talk to every single hospital administrator in this province. If she picks up her telephone and talks to them, they will come back to her with that answer time after time. She cannot cut a budget by \$53 million and not see a reduction in the number of beds, a reduction in the number of patients who will be receiving care and a reduction in staff. That is the clear-cut implication of what she is doing.

Can the minister confirm that, again, when we look at chronic care, the \$53-million figure is the equivalent of 1,378 such people? To put it another way, each \$1 million cut represents 26 fewer patients served in the chronic care system. Does the minister not understand that she cannot cut hospitals in this way without also cutting services?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I know that the Leader of the Opposition understands this, and I hesitate to use the word that he is even inadvertently attempting to suggest that we are doing something that we are clearly not doing.

What we have done in the past three years has been to give a massive infusion of money, over \$1 billion, into hospital base budgets, some 39 per cent increases in base budgets. Clearly, what we are saying is that the ministry approves those budgets and then the hospitals manage within them. That is the way the system works.

The problem we have is that when hospitals act in isolation and begin new programs that they have not had approval for, it places in jeopardy how we plan. For those hospitals that are working with us through the district health councils, where we prioritize, we then cannot go forward with new and expanded programs. He is asking me to choose between funding those which we have not approved and funding those which have been prioritized and that we want to approve. Clearly, this is an issue of planning and management.

Mr. B. Rae: The last statement is one that we all agree with. This is an issue of planning and management, and I can say that the planning and management of this government with respect to our health care system is nothing short of a disaster for people who are sick in this province. It is an absolute disaster.

I just want to raise one particular example so the minister can understand. Let her pick up the phone and speak to Ken Pope, who is the president of the Ottawa Valley chapter of the Kidney Foundation of Canada. Let her speak to

him directly about the impact of her decision, the impact it is going to have on a projected renal dialysis unit, a renovation of the unit at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Talk to him about how they feel and how patients feel about a unit that was set up to serve 20 people that is now serving 200 people, backups in the system which this government is doing nothing to address and which the minister's cutbacks are only going to effect.

When is the minister going to wake up to the fact that for all her statements about planning and fiscal responsibility, the real impact of what she is doing is being felt by patients who are sick? That is the bottom line of what this government is not doing.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The Leader of the Opposition is clearly wrong. There are four components of hospital funding, and he knows what they are: they are an inflation increase, a workload increase, a life-support increase and a new and expanded program increase. That gives us the 6.9 per cent that we have announced this year for hospital base increases.

When the member is talking about renal dialysis, that is part of our overall review of what the needs are in life support. To equate that with a hospital program that may be as a result of an unapproved program is not only jeopardizing our future planning but is distracting. I do not want to use the word, and I know it is inadvertent, but the member is really being less than truthful in how he is portraying this situation.

Mr. B. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have to ask you to intervene on that.

Mr. Speaker: I know the minister was being careful, but I am certain the minister would probably want to reconsider the words she used.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I will take back the words "less than truthful" and say that I am very concerned that we accurately portray—

Mr. Speaker: That is really all that I was requesting.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The minister, I know, will be aware of the statements she has made in the House and that her predecessor made about how determined she was, when assuming the ministry, to reduce the backlog with respect to rent review.

The most recent figures show that on February 1, 1988, the backlog was some 23,189 applications. On March 1, it was 23,392. On April 1, it was 24,117. On April 30, it was 24,785. Not

only has the minister not managed to reduce the backlog, but in the month of April there were 1,200 applications received, and 600 were dealt with.

I would like to ask the minister how she can justify this kind of incredible delay, the increase in the backlog and the exact opposite of what she personally promised this House that she would see was done when she was named the minister back in the fall.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The numbers that the Leader of the Opposition has quoted are in fact accurate, and what they reflect is a rollover. There are always new applications coming in. There are applications being dealt with. The increase is a result of new applications coming in. We are always working hard, and the numbers of applications being processed are increasing all the time. The member knows there are many more resources coming in, and he will see much more rapid movement in this area.

Mr. B. Rae: The only thing that needs to roll over with respect to action is this government. It has a problem here which the minister addressed when she became minister back in the fall. She said she was going to do something about it and then ended up not doing anything about it.

In addition to the incredible delay the tenants are facing—which is getting worse, because there are more applications going in than coming out of the system, and that is a sign of a system that simply is not working—the minister will no doubt be aware that the latest published increases show that for both pre-1975 and post-1975 buildings, the increase has been over 12 per cent as of April 30, 1988, which is two and a half times as high as the rate that she said would be the rate for tenants when she became the minister. In addition to the delay, tenants are getting shafted on the amount.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: Again, how can the minister justify that?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: One of the reasons there are so many applications in the system is that the system now covers all tenants in the province. Every single building in this province is covered. There are many tenants who are now offered the protection of rent review who under previous situations had no protection at all, had rent increases many more times than once a year and had rent increases that were not justified.

The increases we are facing deal with some of the realities of the costs of maintaining buildings. Tenants are now offered genuine protections which they did not have before. As a result of the

work that we are doing in rent review, more than 500 landlords in this province have worked on the buildings that had outstanding work orders on them. In some cases those outstanding work orders were two years old. There are now tenants in the province whose homes have been fixed and brought up to quality as a result of the work of our rent review system.

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Mr. Breaugh: How much of this colossal screwup is due to the ministry's own instructions to people who are filling out forms? How much of the problem is caused by this kind of stuff?

"This information does not in any way constitute instructions by the Ministry of Housing for completion of a notice of rent increase in this situation. Neither does the ministry suggest this is the only approach which could be used.

"The Ministry of Housing cannot guarantee completion of a notice of rent increase in the foregoing manner will satisfy the requirements of section 5 of the Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1986.

"A court of law might take the view a notice completed in this manner is vague or ambiguous, and on these grounds, declare it invalid. As a result, the tenant to whom the notice is issued would not be required to pay any amount of increase until a new notice without any vagueness or ambiguity is issued."

It goes on for 18 more pages.

Mr. Speaker: Minister. The member asked a question right at the first of his comments.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: If the member opposite is asking me how much of what we are dealing with in rent review has to do with his style of reading prose, I really cannot answer that question. But I can tell him one of the issues we are dealing with is the fact we have legislation that was made in a unique way; it was made as a result of landlords and tenants getting together in order to come up with some answers of what they thought would work.

What is very important is that we are working actively with tenants to help them work through the process. One of the things tenants tell us when we work with them is that they very much appreciate the quality of the attention they are given by rent review officers, whose work I am very proud of. It is very important to say many more tenants are protected in this legislation than before. I recognize the difficulty for both tenants and landlords in dealing with complex legislation, and our ministry is committed to helping them do that effectively.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I will direct my first question, with your permission, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. It is with respect to the most recent discussions between his counterpart the federal Minister for International Trade and the Premier with regard to the free trade agreement.

It seems unusual to us on this side of the House that when the Premier is talking about the Meech Lake accord, he talks about the need for all of us looking at the accord in an open-minded way which will recognize the essence of the need for an accord that will in fact recognize the national interests, the interests right across this country and those particularly of the sensitive issue of Quebec.

The Premier knows that eight out of 10 provinces have already supported the free trade agreement. I would like to, if I might, just comment on a statement the Premier made—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Brandt: —and I will get to the question very quickly. At the Liberal Party convention in Ottawa, the Premier was quoted as saying with respect to the federal government, “I see a government that wilfully brings in policies to pit region against region...for its own partisan political purposes.” I think this government stands accused of doing the selfsame thing as it relates to the free trade agreement. When eight out of 10 provinces in this country have agreed to that particular document, why does Ontario continue to stand alone with Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The leader of the third party is trying to rationalize Meech Lake with the free trade agreement. They are two separate issues.

We have taken a look at the proposed bilateral trade agreement, and from Ontario's perspective, we have found it wanting. We think it is a bad deal. We are not opposed to the concept of free trade. We are opposed to this deal. We think it is a bad deal, and that is why we have taken this stand.

Mr. Brandt: I might say that the same logic that applies to the Meech Lake accord certainly applies to the free trade agreement with respect to the need for a national consensus document that will reflect in fact what is best for this country as a whole. As the minister knows, there are many economists and academics who have taken the

position that the free trade agreement will benefit Ontario very substantially.

In relation to the free trade agreement, there are many provincial governments that are concerned about the possibility of a provincial override and they see as the only reason an override may be necessary that Ontario has taken a position relative to the question of the wine pricing issue here in this province. Is Ontario prepared to give up that override, as it relates to the free trade agreement, in order to bring it into step with all the other provinces in this country?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: We are on the record. Our position is clear. We passed a resolution in this House on January 6, in which we stated, and we reiterate, that we will not introduce any legislation to implement any of the provisions in the free trade agreement.

Mr. Brandt: The government does not have to introduce legislation with respect to the override question. It has to give its consent to the federal government that it will not implement that portion of the jurisdictional distinction between the federal and the provincial governments. The Premier has said that history will judge those harshly who block the Meech Lake accord, and I tend to concur with that opinion. I tend to concur that there is a need for nation-building, a need for consensus-building in this country.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Brandt: I say to the minister again, by way of question, why will his government not take the same position with respect to the free trade agreement as relates to the Meech Lake accord? Those two documents are the foundation upon which this nation will be built.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Minister.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I think the leader of the third party is stretching credulity in suggesting that Meech Lake and the free trade agreement are part and parcel of and are going to contribute to the nation-building of this country. We had a situation where we had 10 provinces and 10 premiers all in accord on Meech Lake—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am talking about at the time.

We have a situation where we had three provinces offside on free trade. We have many of the other premiers giving qualified consent, depending on what happens with the omnibus trade bill and depending on the very question that the honourable member raises as to whether or not provincial rights are going to be overridden.

Mr. Pope: My question is to the Premier. My leader has indicated his concern about the fact that the Premier appears to be pitting region against region in this country with respect to the free trade agreement, that Ontario is virtually standing alone in terms of active opposition to the free trade agreement and that for some reason he feels his sense of nationhood and nation-building does not include Ontario's participation in this most serious economic and trade issue affecting all of Canada.

My question to the Premier is, what specifically—and I think it is time for him to be specific, quite frankly; for a number of reasons, it is time for him to be specific—is he doing to prevent or to assist in the implementation of the free trade agreement between now and January 1, 1989?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: To be very specific, we are not doing anything to assist in the implementation of the free trade agreement.

Mr. Pope: He very carefully avoided part of that question. I will repeat the question, since he obviously does not intend to clarify his position for the benefit of the economy or the working people of this province. What is the Premier doing to prevent or to assist in the implementation of the free trade agreement between now and January 1, 1989? What is he doing to prevent it or what is he doing to assist in its implementation?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend the minister really answered his leader, who put the proposition perhaps a little more clearly than the member did. We do not think the federal government has made a good deal in the national interest. We are not alone in that view. The majority in Manitoba have that view, the Premier of Prince Edward Island has the same view, and there are many other Canadians across the country who have that view.

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I recognize there are many Canadians across the country who have a different view than I do, and I respect their right to do so. That being said, we have the right in this province, as the government that has discussed this matter widely with people over a long period of time, to bring forward the policies that we believe in. We do not believe this deal is in the national interest. We do not believe we are under any obligation to bring in legislation that traditionally has lain in the provincial area. We do not believe that is a responsibility that we have under the trade agreement, and we will not do so.

Mr. Pope: The answer of the Premier is that he is doing nothing to prevent the implementation of the free trade agreement and nothing to assist in the implementation of the free trade agreement. In fact, other than hollow words during the election campaign, he is doing nothing at all on this issue. That is his sense of leadership on this important economic issue confronting Ontario and all of this country.

The Premier surely is aware that the governments of Quebec and other provinces are assisting farmers, the agricultural community and other economic interest groups in their provinces in implementation planning and processes leading up to January 1, 1989.

Ontario's position is that it is going to leave the economic sectors of Ontario alone; they can go it alone. They will have no support from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter). There will be no planning for the implementation of the marketing of Ontario products in the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a question?

Mr. Pope: Why is the Premier leaving working men and women and industries and companies in this province alone, and at a competitive disadvantage to other working people across the country, by refusing to participate?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I want to say as kindly as I can to my honourable friend, that is nonsense of the worst order. This government is very sensitive to the competitive position of Ontario industry. Witness the last budget and the progressive measures brought forward by my colleague with respect to capital cost allowances, investment in science and technology and assisting to get engineering and technical people into small companies.

I say my honourable friend is completely wrong in his view, but if he is asking me to assist the captain of the Titanic in running into an iceberg, he could not honestly ask that of me. We will assist the captain of the Titanic to run around the iceberg, if he wants to take our advice in that regard.

I recognize the federal authority in this matter, but when we believe we are making a mistake of great proportions, then we have a responsibility to stand up as Canadians. I believe we have done that in the past and we will continue to do so.

When we see the implementation legislation in the next few days, then we will share our views on it; but I repeat, I do not believe we in Ontario are under any obligation to bring in legislation to implement a bad deal. If the federal government

is going to wipe out industries with one stroke of the pen, I say to the member that is its responsibility, not ours.

Mr. B. Rae: I want to give the Premier an opportunity to do exactly what he says he wants to do, and that is to stand up for what he believes in. I have just sent over to the Premier a letter which he could sign, addressed to Senator Bentsen, which states categorically what the position of the Ontario government is; which not only states that Ontario is opposed to the agreement but also states, "We are also committed to passing legislation which clearly asserts provincial jurisdiction in the fields of energy, resource control, health and community services, and the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages."

If the Premier is really serious about what he is saying about his opposition to this deal, why not take the opportunity to signal clearly to all the world, and indeed to the American Senate, precisely just how far he and his government are prepared to go in order to defeat the free trade deal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not want to ever claim to my honourable friend that we are ahead of him, but in fact we are. That has already been done. The resolution of this House, when we had a wide discussion, has already been conveyed to the ambassador through official sources.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: In the resolution of this House, it wasn't clear.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member may not take this House very seriously, but I do. I can tell my honourable friend that when you have so many, when you have a crushing majority of the members here, thoughtful members of the House like my friend opposite pronouncing on this issue, and we convey that officially through official channels to the ambassador, the administration and the Congress, I do not think you could send any clearer signals than we are sending at the moment.

Mr. B. Rae: I was here for that debate and the Liberal resolution was full of the worst kinds of sucker clauses and the worst kinds of weasel words. When we passed that resolution, its ambivalence was crucial. I would like to ask the Premier again—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. B. Rae: The letter which I am asking the Premier to send to Senator Bentsen is even clearer than the letter he wrote to Ambassador Niles because what it says, as opposed to what he

said to Ambassador Niles, quite categorically, is that Ontario is going to do something: Ontario is going to pass legislation which asserts its provincial jurisdiction.

That would be different from what the Premier has said. It would be different from what he has said today, which is that he is not going to do anything. We are asking him to do something. If he is serious, why is he not prepared to do anything?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I just do not agree with my honourable colleague's analysis, because I was here for that debate and I listened to a lot of thoughtful comments from a lot of our colleagues, as did others who are interested in this particular situation. The reality is the constitutional aspects of this, not a particular piece of legislation in this House. My honourable friend may take the view that we should introduce legislation just to be provocative and to promote some kind of a constitutional fight in that regard. That appears to be his view in that matter.

I think we have clearly conveyed that through a variety of sources, official and unofficial, through a great number of meetings. I have met with a large number of American officials in the last little while, the last being Governor Jim Thompson who was here particularly on that issue, and have conveyed messages back to the administration. We have done that very clearly and unequivocally. I suspect they understand our view, even if perhaps some members in this House do not.

RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL OF OTTAWA

Mr. Eves: I have a question of the Minister of Health. Riverside Hospital of Ottawa has been found by her own operational review to be a well-run and cost-efficient hospital. For reasons beyond its control, Touche Ross says that it had a deficit for the first time last year. The hospital is concerned that the only way it can eliminate its deficit is to close 40 beds and lay off 50 staff. Does she concur?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The information that the member from the third party presents is inaccurate. In fact, the hospital had a deficit in 1982 and 1983 and was bailed out by some \$220,000. In 1986 and 1987, it ran a \$1.1-million deficit and in 1987-88 its projection is for a \$2.95-million deficit. This is one of the hospitals under review. We are reviewing those and what we are determined to do is bring fairness into how we fund.

Where we find there are programs that we have approved that we have not adequately funded, we

will be responding to those in discussions with the hospitals on an individual basis. However, where we find that there are unapproved programs which have been added without ministry approval, then we would be doing a disservice to the majority of the hospitals in this province that manage well with the resources that they are given.

Mr. Eves: I refer the minister to her own operational review done by consultants of her ministry's choice, Touche Ross. I refer her to a letter from the chairperson of the hospital board which says, "We incurred our first ever operating deficit in 1987-88." Somebody had better get their act together.

Does the minister agree? Is she in favour of closing beds and cutting staff at Riverside so it can eliminate its deficit? Yes or no? That is the question. That has been the question for three weeks. Can we have a straight answer?

1420

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I think it is very important that we are clear that the role of the minister is to ensure that we have a well-run, well-managed health care system in this province.

We do not run individual hospitals. We give them a budget and we expect them to live within those resources that they are given. They determine the mix of services. However, the ministry approves programs. If we find there are hospitals that have unapproved programs, I expect them to bring their programs in line with ministry approval. It is up to the hospital board and it is up to the administration to see that they do that.

The concept of a balanced budget is not a new or unusual concept.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, the member for Mississauga West.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) would—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We will just wait until they are finished.

ACCESS TO CHILDREN IN CUSTODY

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Attorney General. A constituent of mine has brought to my attention a very serious matter in relation to the custody and access issue. It seems that sole custody was awarded to the mother of two children, with access granted to the father on

alternate weekends and one day a week. Subsequently, the father has been charged by police with child abuse against one of the children. There has been a preliminary hearing established to deal with the matter and, in the meantime, the access decision is being upheld. The mother is terrified of allowing the father to see either of the children. I do not think she is the only one in this position.

Can the Attorney General advise as to what a mother should do in this case, where there is an apparent threat to the children? Can she break the law and withhold access or is there some way that a special hearing can be established to determine whether the father should be allowed near the children prior to the hearing?

Hon. Mr. Scott: I would like to thank the honourable member for the question. I know he is concerned about this case and I am very grateful for the notice he has given to me so that I can respond to it.

This is, of course, a terrifying situation for a mother and I am certain all members of the House will share her anxiety and her concern facing these facts and the fact that a criminal charge has been taken in respect of an alleged assault by the father against the child.

In the circumstances, while I am not able to give legal advice, I am sure all honourable members understand that a mother would be most reluctant to grant further access in those circumstances. If she wants, as I believe she should have, legal advice and does not have a lawyer to confirm her own view about what is proper to do in the circumstances, I would be glad to put her in touch immediately with legal aid in her community.

Mr. Mahoney: She does have a lawyer. The problem seems to be that the access ruling cannot be challenged prior to the hearing date, and there is a substantial wait for that date. Given the fact that the rights of all the people—the children, the mother and the father—are protected in society, should there not be a way of expeditiously examining cases like this, particularly where the police have filed a charge, to determine if indeed there is fear of violence against the children so that we can deal with the issue before the fact rather than after some violence has been committed against these kids?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The answer to the second question the honourable member raises is that the law at present, as I understand it, does not require a mother to give access to a noncustodial parent if she has reasonable grounds for refusing to do so. I would have thought that the grounds the

honourable member has referred to, if demonstrated, would be a reasonable excuse for the failure to provide access until the trial takes place. I believe a lawyer, her lawyer or a legal aid one, would confirm that is the position.

I cannot help drawing to the honourable member's attention what he perhaps already knows, that we have introduced a bill in this House to deal with access, which will provide for an early remedy in the event that there is a dispute of this type as to the propriety of access.

Mr. Speaker: New question the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens)—oh.

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek).

Mr. Jackson: Come on, you recognized him.

Mr. Speaker: I appreciate that. However, the standing orders say we should rotate. The member for Hamilton West (Mr. Mackenzie).

LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. Can the Minister of Labour bring the House up to date on the lockout of the 740 members of Local 672, Energy and Chemical Workers Union at Dow Chemical in Sarnia?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I really do not have anything further to add on that dispute. If there is specific information that the member for Hamilton East wants, he could give me notice of it.

The parties, as I understand it, are not now meeting. There are no negotiations that I am aware of going on between the parties. He and I know that the strike has gone on a long time, but I certainly have not been given any indication that there is movement by either of the parties.

Mr. Mackenzie: Is the minister aware of the provocation by Midland Corp. USA, owners of Dow Chemical in Sarnia? Specifically, there are deliberate delays in the revamped grievance arbitration, which, as I have said before, probably would have resolved this issue; the use of scabs from Alberta and Quebec; the anti-union attitude of the plant manager from the United States, who is in on a soon-to-expire visa permit as it is; and the provocative use of surveillance cameras raised and lowered on construction booms whenever the busloads of scabs go in or whenever trucks go in or out, often empty, deliberately trying to provoke the workers in this situation.

They have had a very disciplined strike up until now, with all of these things going on. Does the minister support these tactics when the

pickets are disciplined and restrained? What is he prepared to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I have had brought to my attention some of the allegations that the member for Hamilton East has raised and, indeed, others. The question that arises out of some of the allegations he makes in this House would really more appropriately be addressed at the Ontario Labour Relations Board, together with the question of whether the corporation in this case is or is not bargaining in good faith or is or is not conducting itself during the course of this strike with a view to doing injury to the union.

I have heard the same allegations he has heard. I am not one bit happy that this strike has gone on so long. I cannot identify any means within my own area of responsibility to assist the parties more than I have. We have provided, obviously, conciliation. We have provided extensive mediation. Our mediators took some unusual steps when we thought the parties were close to a resolution. That did not work. We are ready, willing and able to bring the parties together whenever we can.

As I said to him, I certainly am not happy about it and I am certainly concerned about some of the things I have been hearing, but I regret to say that I cannot see a solution within the purview of my responsibility. It may well be that the union wants to take the matter before the Ontario Labour Relations Board, but that would be a decision it would have to make itself.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The minister has declared that it is her mandate to provide affordable housing in Ontario. That is going to be her hallmark. Home builders, home buyers would all like to know what an affordable house is. I am not talking about rental homes: an affordable purchased dwelling. What is the minister's definition of an affordable house and what method does her ministry use to arrive at that definition?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is indeed the commitment of this ministry to help all the other people who can make a difference here, including doing the work ourselves, to make it possible for people of low and moderate incomes to afford housing in this province. We would define affordable housing as housing that is available to people of low and moderate incomes all over the province. There are different income levels that constitute low and moderate incomes in different parts of the province.

Mr. Cousens: Not much of an answer so far. We are still trying to find out what the definition of affordability is and who it is that is going to be able to afford a \$200,000 home. The Toronto Home Builders' Association indicates that really only four per cent of the total population of Toronto could afford to buy a home at \$200,000, and now the price of a new home has gone up to \$265,000 or more.

The minister and everyone in the industry know full well that the government's new Ontario home ownership savings plan is as bad a joke as its rent review plan. Home builders want to know, home buyers want to know and this House wants to know why the government has not developed a strategy for helping people to get out of the rent trap and find realistic ways to afford a new home.

1430

Hon. Ms. Hošek: It is extremely important for people in this province who have low and moderate incomes to be able to find housing they can afford to live in. I am particularly concerned about the people who want to own homes for the first time and find it difficult to do so.

There are a number of ways we have begun to help. One is the initiative in the budget with the home ownership savings plan. Another, and one I am very glad to have an opportunity to talk about today, is the approach we have taken in working with municipalities and regional governments to make it possible for many different sizes of houses to be built on different kinds and sizes of land with a real concern about infrastructure.

The kind of work we are doing with municipalities is meant to address not only the provision of housing through the nonprofit system we have for building housing, but also ordinary building in the normal course done by the private sector. We did that and are working with the municipalities in response to the suggestions given to us by builders, who said that if we could work together with municipalities to cut our approval time, to simplify the planning process, to work in order to make it possible to build smaller houses on smaller lots in this province, to offer more variety of choices for people, then they would be able to help provide housing that many more people in this province could afford. We have begun to do that. We are going to do more, and I think we will see significant results.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Elliot: I have a question for the Minister of Education. I would like to ask a question with

respect to capital funding. We are very appreciative of the fact that in the Halton separate school system we did get a substantial amount of capital funding. My question, though, relates to the public school system in the Halton region. Specifically, is there some rationale that the minister could explain to us why the amount of capital funding in the Halton region was half of \$350,000?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I would like to indicate to the member for Halton North that the capital allocations this year were made on the basis of need. As all members are fully aware, in the Halton region both the public and the separate board received an allocation for their first priority. I believe the Halton board's first priority was a new elementary school in the River Oaks subdivision in Oakville, and the separate board's was a secondary school in north Burlington. The capital grant plan gave an allocation for a site acquisition for that elementary school. In subsequent years, the funds will flow for the necessary construction.

I do want to emphasize, however, that the determination as to which projects have the highest priority is made on the basis of need, the first criterion being that of enrolment growth and the second being the utilization of available space currently within the system.

Mr. Elliot: My supplementary has to do with the amount of money granted for a site selection in the designated area. Does it follow that if the site is selected and funding is given to that, a school will follow?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I think that is a fairly safe assumption.

ZOO LICENSING

Mr. Philip: I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources. The minister will be aware that on Saturday, Nancy Erickson, president of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, and other delegates to the convention of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, overwhelmingly endorsed Bill 129 which I introduced in the House, a bill which would give his ministry the power to inspect and license zoos. The minister will also be aware that the bill has the support of zoologists, veterinarians and humane society officials across the province.

On February 23, 1988, I sent the minister a draft copy of the bill and asked for his comments. Is the minister prepared to introduce this bill or a similar bill in order to regulate the private zoos in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I certainly am fully informed on the bill that the member is talking about and I share the concern he has about that whole circumstance. Coincidentally, while that bill came forward, presented by the member, we had been studying the animals that are native to Ontario as an initiative by my ministry.

I accept the fact that the member added that other dimension. I have now asked the ministry to go a little further and talk about any wild animals in captivity, regardless of whether they are native to Ontario or come from other areas.

Yes, it is in the works. I suspect the member read that I accused him, just a little, of taking a page from my book. But I also read the comment he made that he was fully willing to share with my ministry and myself his bill if I was prepared to go forward with it. I certainly am examining it. I do not know to what degree I can treat the element as far as animals that are not native to Ontario are concerned.

Mr. Philip: This bill deals precisely with many animals that are not native to Ontario, and that is the issue.

Surely the minister will agree that there is overwhelming evidence that some of the present private zoos are a danger, a health threat to the population that visits them, a physical danger to some of the population that visits them, and that the animals are kept in a way that is completely inappropriate and inhumane to those animals.

When are we to expect some legislation that will deal with this problem in Ontario? We are facing the summer now when people are going to be entering those zoos. What is the minister going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I reiterate that while I was examining the animals that were native and indigenous to Ontario, and the honourable member brought forward his concerns about the others, it really pointed up the fact that I could not very well make decisions about the keeping of animals here if in the same area there might be animals that were not native to the province being treated in a different way.

It has added a dimension I am looking at. I cannot give the member a feeling about when, but certainly we are working at it in the ministry. I will be able to share information with him as soon as we are ready to put something forward in legislation.

FARM TAX REBATE

Mr. Wiseman: I have a question for the Minister of Revenue. About a year ago, we heard of the changes to the farm tax rebate. I would like

to share with the House and the minister where I think it is not working properly.

In the township of Admaston, there is a farmer who purchased a piece of land adjacent to his farm, because it is hard to get farm severances now, for his son to come back and help him farm in that area. It was a residence, and he just transferred it from a rural residence to a farm residence. The factor used as a rural residence was 6.66. When it was transferred to a farm residence, it went to 11.99. We all know that is doubling the tax.

Has the minister had similar cases brought to his attention, and if he has not, will he check into this and other cases that are going on throughout Lanark and Renfrew to make sure this injustice is not done to our farmers?

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: This is the first time I have heard about this and this particular case. If the honourable member would write to me, I will certainly look into it. I can assure the member that we are continually looking at improving these programs and I would certainly welcome his suggestions.

Mr. Wiseman: I thought too that this was just an isolated case until I checked with the assessment office in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville and with the Pembroke office, which I am sure the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) would be interested in. I found that all of the farm residents are paying at a higher factor than the rural people living in a house out in the rural community. They range all the way from 50 per cent more to as high as 100 per cent more.

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Again, I feel our farmers felt, when they went into this—and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture supported it, I understand; and the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell) will agree—that they were going to be treated fairly in this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Does the member have a supplementary question?

Mr. Wiseman: I would like to see them treated the same as any other rural residents.

Hon. Mr. Grandmaitre: I would like to see everybody in Ontario treated fairly, and I am sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food and myself will look into this. But I find it very surprising: if the member says this is not an isolated case, why did his constituents or others not appeal their assessment? I find it very strange, but if the member will write to me I will certainly look into it and I will share his concern with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF POSITIONS

Mr. Campbell: My question is for the Minister of Correctional Services. In light of the change of the Cecil Facer facility from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to the Ministry of Correctional Services, could the minister comment on any proposed changes in manpower requirements in that facility?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am aware of that transfer to our ministry and I am going to ensure that those jobs—and some of the positions have to change in their status from correctional officer 2 to correctional officer 3—are in transition as equitably as possible. We will try to make sure that people's lives and careers are disrupted to the very least.

HERITAGE LANGUAGES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Education. I thank him for staying. I thought I was going to hit two for two here and miss him in the same way as I missed the Premier (Mr. Peterson) last week.

I have a question for him stemming from the past Minister of Education's Proposal for Action: Ontario's Heritage Languages Program, which he introduced here on June 8, 1987, a proposal for action by the Liberal government. Can the minister explain to me why it has become a blueprint for inaction by him as minister?

Hon. Mr. Ward: The proposal for action was submitted to school boards throughout Ontario. Comment was invited from many interested parties. Over the course of the past several months, we have received numerous briefs and presentations. The cutoff date for those submissions was earlier this spring. We expect to be coming forward to the Legislature with a response to that input, hopefully in the near future.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: This is strange to hear. As far as I know, the cutoff for responses was September 1987 and this report to his ministry, an analysis of the public responses, was submitted by mid-December 1987. The minister has had it for six months now, and we have still heard nothing from him. When are we going to get his response to these responses or his positive assertion of the initiatives that the member for Renfrew North was suggesting, or his negation of them? Which is it going to be?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I just want to indicate to the member that the response to the document was indeed overwhelming. We did extend the time

for submissions. The member is wrong if he thinks it was just a couple of petitions. We had numerous letters and presentations and we will be responding to that input, hopefully before the end of this session.

HOSPITAL FUNDING

Mr. McLean: My question is directed to the Minister of Health. It concerns the future development of the Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

The minister's officials received a report last December from the hospital's board of directors which recommended building a second campus for acute care while existing facilities should be used for long-term care. Ministry officials told the hospital board that the minister would have a decision on the hospital's future development by the end of March at the very latest. Can the minister tell this Legislature whether she approves of building a second campus in Orillia?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As the member is aware, we have announced an unprecedented capital program of some \$850 million. We are proceeding with that program and plan as we continue to review the capital needs of many communities around the province. I will be pleased to look into the specific situation the member has brought to my attention.

Mr. McLean: I thought the minister would be aware of the situation. There is a very large fund-raising program going on at the present time. They have raised approximately \$3 million. They have been in hopes of this announcement coming so they can put more emphasis on their fund raising. What we want to know is if the minister will approve of a new facility for Orillia?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: As I mentioned to the member and to others in the Legislature who have brought to my attention the many projects which are at varying stages of discussion within communities, it is my goal to make sure we have a capital plan which respects the need to ensure that we have fiscal responsibility and that we review the operating implications of those decisions. In due course we will be reviewing all of those which are taking place in communities at the time, and I would be pleased to look into the specific request of the member.

TIMBER CUTTING PRACTICES

Mr. Pouliot: My question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. The minister will be only too aware that some contractors and some cutting companies are cutting very near to roads in

northern Ontario and are also bypassing the former philosophy of his ministry regarding cutting close to lakes. The minister might also be aware that to allow such practice detracts greatly from the natural scenic beauty, especially up north. Why did the minister change policy regarding cutting allowances?

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not quite know how to address the question, except to say I was not aware that this was happening. I am very willing to suggest that if it is happening, I certainly do not concur with that kind of practice. We are, in fact, entering an age of real responsibility towards forestry practices and—

An hon. member: Not like before.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Exactly as my member has said, “not like before.” We seriously are going to answer all those questions. I feel that when a member brings forward that kind of question, it is within the area of sharing with me his concerns and I am very willing to look into it. I certainly do not approve of that. I think the practices in and around Lady Evelyn-Smoothwater Provincial Park, for instance, outside the park, maintained the skyline to a degree I think was very acceptable. I would share my concern with the member and be very willing to look into it.

Mr. Pouliot: We are not suggesting the minister establish a park to monitor compliance. I have a good deal of difficulty believing him when he says he is not aware. Somewhere down the line, people in his ministry have to tell him of more and more cases almost on a daily basis, a lot of people pass this information along by word of mouth.

What I am asking the minister is if he is going to get specific so he can monitor compliance with the small jobbers, people somewhat larger and the cutting companies of northern Ontario, so we can keep attracting tourism in our special part of Ontario and look forward to what we had in yesteryear, which his inefficiency, I might add, has perhaps helped destroy.

Mr. Speaker: I think the question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What I would say to the honourable member is that if there is any good reason in a specific area it is one thing, but to digress from what is policy is something I am not prepared to accept. I am very anxious and willing to look into it and share any of the information with the honourable member.

RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL OF OTTAWA

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Earlier today, she said the

Riverside Hospital of Ottawa operated with deficits in several years. I refer her to exhibit 1 of the Touche Ross report, which shows 1981-82, a surplus of \$252,000; 1982-83, a surplus of \$979,000; 1983-84, a surplus of \$1,065,000; 1984-85, a surplus of \$1,087,000; a surplus in 1985-86 of \$231,000; a surplus in 1986-87 of—

Mr. Speaker: Question?

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Mr. Sterling: If the minister claims that these are not correct figures, will she tell us exactly which ones she takes in dispute and will she also tell us what programs that have not been approved by her ministry have been undertaken?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: There are a number of hospitals in the Ottawa area that have Quebec residents coming to use those facilities. That Quebec revenue is not considered when the ministry does its allocation. One of the things we look at which is very important is making sure the fluctuations in that revenue do not have an impact on the hospital. We have begun to address that. That hospital has had repeated deficits and was identified as one under review. Because of the nature of the process, we have had the review undertaken.

Mr. Harris: Well, what the hell. It says here there are no deficits. She said “deficits.” That was a bald-faced lie. She stood up there in her place and said they had deficits and now they don’t. The consultant says there wasn’t.

Interjection.

Mr. Harris: Oh, don’t be so silly. Tell her to tell the truth when she stands up there and answers a question.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member for Nipissing withdraw? Yes?

Mr. Harris: Yes, I will do so, Mr. Speaker, if you have problems with anything I said.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, I do.

That completes the time for oral questions.

PETITIONS

TAX INCREASES

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition signed by 3,020 irate taxpayers in Ontario which reads as follows:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“Bob Nixon, you’ve gone too far.”

I lend my signature to this petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Campbell: I have two petitions, one from St. Stanislaus Church in Copper Cliff with 99 signatures and one from the Catholic Women's League of Holy Redeemer Church with 55 signatures, regarding the Retail Business Holidays Act.

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a petition signed by 78 members from the First Christian Reformed Church in Kemptville. It reads as follows:

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario. Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common day of pause across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

I fully agree, and I have signed this petition.

Mr. Epp: I have a petition addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. It says:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario. Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

That has been signed by 28 citizens from my riding.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition signed by over 3,000 constituents and irate taxpayers in Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far." RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Henderson: This is a petition to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas we strongly oppose Sunday openings and whereas we are concerned about having

to work on Sundays, we believe that the Ontario government must act to maintain Sunday as a common pause day."

This is signed by 37 residents of Etobicoke and by me.

NATUROPATHY

Miss Martel: I have a petition signed by 50 residents of the region of Sudbury who request that the naturopaths of Ontario be guaranteed, through an act in the Legislature of the province of Ontario, their right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment. I have signed my name to this, and I agree with them.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Cousens: I have a petition signed by 39 persons belonging to the Community Christian Reform Church of Richmond Hill. As a cabinet minister, the Minister of Labour and member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara) is not able to present this, so I am pleased to do it on behalf of the people of Richmond Hill.

"To the Lieutenant Governor:

"We, the undersigned, urge the Ontario Legislature not to pass legislation that would pass responsibility for regulating Sunday and holiday retail hours to the municipalities in Ontario. Rather, the Ontario government should revise its current legislation in order to uphold more strongly a common pause day across the province. We believe that a common day for family and worship activities is essential to the wellbeing of Ontario."

It is so signed.

1987 CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD

Mr. Velshi: I have a petition signed by about 99 people, Voice of Women, against the Meech Lake accord.

"To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"Canadians must ensure that women's equality rights are clearly written and well protected in our Constitution.

"The risks we see in the proposed Meech Lake accord should and must be removed before ratification. For women, any risk is too much risk.

"We reject any proposal for companion resolutions to 'fix it up later,' because we cannot trust all provinces not to exercise veto.

"The accord must be revised to read that nothing in it will abrogate or derogate from any of the rights and freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Hampton: I have a petition from some 20 residents of the community of Ignace, who state:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Government and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario."

I have affixed my signature to this petition, and I must say I agree with the petition.

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REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. LeBourdais from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill as amended:

Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

Mr. Fleet from the standing committee on regulations and private bills presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Big Cedar Association;

Bill Pr11, An Act to revive LFP Management Limited;

Bill Pr28, An Act to revive Mid-Continent Bond Corporation, Limited;

Bill Pr48, An Act respecting the Town of Oakville.

Your committee begs to report the following bills as amended:

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Sudbury;

Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

MUNICIPAL PRIVATE ACTS REPEAL ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 134, An Act to repeal certain Private Acts related to Municipalities.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The purpose of this legislation is to repeal approximately 300 obsolete municipal private acts at the request of the affected municipal councils. The Legislature enacted a similar bill in 1983.

ROAD ACCESS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved first reading of Bill 135, An Act to amend the Road Access Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Eakins: The purpose of this legislation is to resolve a difficulty created by a recent decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal. That decision has reduced the effectiveness of the act and it is essential that it be amended to address the issue.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS ACT

Mr. Henderson moved first reading of Bill 136, An Act respecting Private Members' Public Bills.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Henderson: The purpose of this bill is to provide democratic procedures for the introduction and consideration of private members' public bills. The standing committee on private members' public bills is established. Following the first reading of a private member's public bill, the committee determines whether the bill merits debate using criteria stated in the act and determines the order in which bills are to be debated in the assembly.

Two weekly sessions of the Legislative Assembly are set aside for consideration of private members' public bills. Time limits on debate and on the amount of time a member may speak on a bill are set out.

Private members' public bills are referred to an appropriate standing committee of the Legislative Assembly following second reading. Guidelines are established for determining the order in which standing committees may consider matters referred to them and to encourage committees to deal promptly with private members' public bills.

Third reading of a private member's public bill and scheduling for royal assent to the bill occur within a specified period of time.

The short title of this bill is the Private Members' Public Bills Act, 1988.

ORDERS OF THE DAY
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF
WATERLOO STATUTE LAW
AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eakins moved third reading of Bill 130, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Act and the Education Act.

Mr. Epp: I just wanted to say that, unfortunately, I was not able to be here yesterday when the bill went through second reading, but I wholeheartedly endorse it. The member municipalities of Waterloo region are very keen on having this particular piece of legislation endorsed by the Legislature, and I am glad to see it go through third reading today.

Motion agreed to.

NORTHERN ONTARIO
HERITAGE FUND ACT
(continued)

LOI SUR LE FONDS PATRIMONIAL
DU NORD L'ONTARIO
(suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 116, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

Suite du débat ajourné sur la motion de deuxième lecture du projet de loi 116, Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) adjourned the debate. Are there any other members who wish to participate in the debate?

Miss Martel: It is a pleasure for me to participate in this debate, and I follow two of my colleagues who have spoken very eloquently on this, yesterday in particular.

I must begin by saying that, in principle alone, I did have a thought that I would probably support this bill, because certainly everyone in this House should be aware that the idea of a heritage fund, in particular a heritage fund for the north, is not a new idea, nor is it a Liberal idea and, really, nor is it a Conservative idea. In fact, the idea of a heritage fund, a fund particularly for northern Ontario, for single-industry towns and resource towns, was first put forward by my predecessor as far back as 1977.

That was during the time of the debate on the creation of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. At that time my predecessor moved in committee,

"That the ministry establish a fund, the northern Ontario tomorrow fund, to consist of moneys derived from natural resources taxation or an assessment on the value of all nonrenewable resources extracted in northern Ontario which will be used to guarantee future economic activities."

It was a good idea at that time, and it is too bad the Conservative Party or the Liberal Party at the time did not see fit to implement that recommendation, along with a number of other recommendations that the New Democratic members on that committee put forward to try to beef up that ministry and beef up some of its responsibilities.

But neither party saw fit to do that, and so we went on for several more years and we continued to advocate the need for such a fund. In November 1986, the former member for Port Arthur, Mr. Foulds, moved again the idea of this northern Ontario fund. He said, "The moneys to establish the fund would come from a consolidation of existing northern development funds and programs and, in addition, through an earmarked percentage of provincial revenue from resource-industry taxation."

I must say it has been well documented in this House that it has been members on this side of the House, in particular in the New Democratic Party, who have always supported the principle of this bill in terms of the need for such a fund and have pushed for the creation of such a fund for many years now.

So I thought seriously of supporting the bill on that alone, on the principle that it was needed, on the principle that it was a good idea and that, in fact, it was our idea. But when we got into looking at the specifics of the bill—and there is not very much to look at; I must say that with regret and I think the minister should say that with a great deal of shame—we found there is not very much here.

1510

There is not very much here that sets down in stone the commitment of this government to this fund in northern Ontario. Its commitment to ensure that the representation on that council will adequately represent all groups in northern Ontario—women, native groups, small and large businesses, unions, etc.—is not set in stone as to how the mechanism will be established and by what ways and means the committee that is established is going to earmark the funds for different projects across the north.

Our concern then is, if those kinds of things are not set in stone, how do we have any control over where that money goes and what project it goes

into, to ensure that the money does not sit unspent year after year to collect interest? Our concern is that indeed there is some specific mechanism put in place whereby projects that are adequate will be funded and the money will be out in the hands of people in northern Ontario, which they desperately need for economic development.

We have a great deal of problems with this bill and the way it is presented. We are not sure whether this government is going to be willing to accept some of our amendments, but I certainly hope it will, because what our amendments will do is strengthen this bill; they will ensure for people in northern Ontario that they are represented by northerners on this council, and there is a specific mechanism that will be in place to ensure that the money is spent and spent wisely.

I will not be supporting this bill. It has several problems. In fact, I would say it is a sham, but I do not want to go that far yet. I will get to it, though; I assure the minister that I will.

Let me tell members about some of the problems I have with this bill, the problems that are not addressed in this bill, this flimsy piece of paper, that the minister should look seriously at resolving by accepting the amendments that my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) will put forward in this House.

The first problem I have goes back to the composition of the board. In section 3 of the act it states the affairs of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. "shall be administered by a board of directors consisting of not fewer than 12 persons." In subsection 3(2): "The minister shall be a director and shall chair the board of directors."

I must say I am a little concerned about that. I am a little concerned that we have no sense of how many directors there will be. We know it is not less than 12; it could be 50, for all we know. I am concerned that there are no guarantees of where those people will come from, from what sectors, from what parts of industry. Where will they come from in northern Ontario? Will they represent all of those groups that have a stake in northern Ontario and that have been waiting for a long time for this type of fund?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Don't worry.

Miss Martel: The minister says, "Don't worry," but I worry when there is no mechanism set out. I worry that it will become a slush fund for those guys and that is all we will see of it, and it will never go to projects that we need in the north.

I say to the minister that we are going to move an amendment that states that the people who sit

on this board are going to come from women's groups, from native groups, from small and large corporations, from trade unions and from small and large entrepreneurs. We want that set in this legislation to ensure that we are going to get the best people and the qualified people so that they are going to be responsible and accountable for the decisions they make and we in northern Ontario can be assured that money is going to be spent properly and wisely.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Read the statement. It's all there.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order.

Miss Martel: I say to the Minister of Northern Development, if it is anything like the federal program, where there are Tories all over it except for one union person, we are going to have some problems. That is why we want to be sure that all sectors of northern Ontario are represented. This bill does not do that.

Mr. Pouliot: On a point of order, Madam Speaker: With the highest of respect, my distinguished colleague the member for Nickel Belt is conveying to the House matters of great wisdom. Under standing order 24(b), the minister seems to be out of control.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Sudbury East, not Nickel Belt.

Mr. Harris: On the same point of order, Madam Speaker: I want to support what the honourable member said. I think the amount of interruptions, interjections and abuse is beyond what is normal. The odd interjection is fair game, but to be continually nattering away while the member is making her points, I think, shows disrespect for this chamber.

The Acting Speaker: I remind all members that under standing order 24(b) they must allow the person who has the floor to continue. I remind the honourable minister that he will have a chance to engage the debate after the member for Sudbury East has completed. I also remind the members of the opposition and of the third party not to participate in that fray. They will have a chance to engage the debate as well.

Miss Martel: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I did not think it was going to get this interesting. I see we are going to have an interesting afternoon.

That is the first problem I see, that the bill in the sections presented does nothing to ensure that the kind of people who are best qualified and should be representing the north are indeed going to be represented. That is why my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon will move an amendment specifically to address this concern, and we

hope the government members here are going to be able to support that.

Second, I have some very definite problems concerning the question of where the money is going to come from year after year to support this fund. The bill points out, in subsection 6(2), "The minister, out of moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature, may make grants to the corporation for deposit in the fund."

I am extremely concerned about that, that the money seems to be coming out of general funds to be put into a fund specifically for northern Ontario. We had hoped the government would take up our advice, which has been put forward by former members in this Legislature, that the money for such a fund should come from resource taxation, from taxation of those mining companies and those forestry companies that have operated for years in northern Ontario and have never put very much back into northern Ontario.

It has been our belief from the beginning that to ensure an adequate fund of money will be available for this year after year after year, money had to come from resource taxation and it had to be guaranteed to come from there, because it is our fear that if it comes from general revenue, we will see a diminishment of that fund; in poor economic times, we are not going to see the \$30 million and in fact, that money will start to diminish year after year as the change in economic times in Ontario proceeds. So we say, and my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon will move this amendment, that a portion of the money to the fund has to come from resource taxation.

If you look at what has happened in Ontario already, the money that came from the tax on softwood lumber, some \$34 million as of March 1988, none of which was earmarked to come back to northern Ontario, could have sufficed for a fund for 1987 into 1988. The money is there, and to ensure that the money which goes out of the north comes back in, we say that money has to come from resource taxation. I do not think it is unreasonable. We have advocated it for years, and I hope the members on the government side can see the sense of our logic.

We are concerned that if it comes from general funds, it will not be guaranteed and that indeed the sums can be diminished. If we draw from resource taxation—and the money is there; we have seen evidence of that concerning the tax on softwood lumber—we can be guaranteed in the north that the sum of money will be constant and will be there to be spent year after year.

Third, a major problem—and probably the biggest problem I have with this—is the amount of money the government has allocated: \$30 million a year for 12 years, a sum of \$360 million of "new" money, as the minister likes to say, and I will get back to the question of new money later on. We on this side of the House have never felt that \$30 million one fiscal year after another will ever be adequate for economic development in the north.

Let me go back to just two projects this government has funded in the last two years in this province. One is a \$30-million loan to one project in southern Ontario, the domed stadium—\$30 million granted by this government to one single project in the city of Toronto, and they expect us to believe that \$30 million is adequate in one year for development across northern Ontario? It is just ridiculous. I cannot believe the government can come forward and talk about the great sums of money it is going to be investing when in one year the same amount of money was put into one project in southern Ontario.

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I will give a second example. The same year, a sum of \$50 million in loans and grants was put into one project in southern Ontario, a car plant—\$50 million to one single project. Yet this government comes forward and tells us that \$30 million in one single year is going to promote economic development. That is if we spend it all; but the minister was in here talking yesterday about how we can save it and the savings can accrue and we can gain interest. I am saying to him that I hope to God we are spending all of the money. It is not very much in the first place, so we had better be out there and spending it, because certainly it is needed and the projects are in place for it to be utilized.

I go back to what we said during the election campaign, which I agree with today, that to ensure adequate development in the short term—because you cannot be dragging this out for 15 years; you cannot be dragging out projects and trying to assign to them paltry sums every year in order to gain completion of a particular project—you have to have a substantial amount of money in the short term, immediately, to boost the kind of development that is required in the north and that can be promoted in the north because the projects are in place.

That is why we in this party said during the election campaign that a sum of \$500 million over three years was what was required in order to give a boost to northern Ontario and to ensure that the type of projects that people have and

municipalities have are going to have substantial amounts of money and enough money to put them in place; not to drag them out year after year and allocate a couple more million so they can get another portion of their project completed, so at the end of 12 years we might have had five or six projects done across the north.

In the first three years, to ensure it is when the government is still in power, a substantial amount of money, a sum that is needed, should be there and be guaranteed and be put into place so that northerners could draw from that pool and begin serious economic development, not little projects that are not going anywhere because they do not have enough funding in one year to be completed, but substantial projects that could be finished over the initial period of three or four years because they had enough money to be completed.

We have a great deal of difficulty in believing that this kind of money, \$30 million one year, \$30 million the next, is going to go very far in completing any substantial projects in northern Ontario. I say to the minister that he should recognize that, that he should look at some of the projects that have been offered and see that the amounts of money that are required are much more substantial and that the response of \$30 million a year does not respond to that at all in any way, shape or form.

I say it is unfortunate that this government did not see fit to put in place a larger pool of money, a pool of money much along the lines we had suggested during the election campaign, to ensure that development could begin and be sustained, and that it could fund a large number of projects that are required and could be put into place across northern Ontario.

Fourth, there is the problem of this fund that it may or may not be used to top up other development projects in northern Ontario. I take it, although I was not here for the debate yesterday, there was some question of whether or not this fund is to be used to top up other projects. I take it there was a withdrawal of that, an initial agreement and a withdrawal.

In any event, the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) is right. When the minister stood up in this House on April 21, 1988, and made his statement to the Legislature concerning the introduction of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Act, he said:

"As some of my colleagues will be aware, the ministry's highly regarded northern Ontario regional development program, which was slated to expire two years ago, was able to continue

with a commitment from the northern development fund.

"The goals of the Nordev program closely reflect one of the major aims of the northern Ontario heritage fund: to provide incentive funding to create jobs and start or expand small businesses in the north. Therefore, a portion of the fund will be used to support continuing private sector initiatives under the Nordev program."

The member was absolutely right. That is exactly what it is going to do, at least in this fiscal year.

I am under the impression that it is \$5 million, although I stand to be corrected, that will move from this year's allocation of \$30 million to the fund into the Nordev program to ensure that the Nordev program will continue, so that the Liberals will have that program to talk about as well.

It was my sense from the budget of 1986, when I looked back and read that budget, that the heritage fund was to be an independent fund, a separate fund from all the other projects that were going on in northern Ontario, and that the money would not be siphoned off to boost or uphold or maintain other projects in northern Ontario.

I go back to the budget of 1986 and to the statement made by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) at that time. He said:

"For decades, many northerners have believed that a larger share of revenue derived from their resource heritage should flow back into the region.

"We are establishing a northern Ontario heritage fund to help ensure long-term economic growth and diversification in the region. The fund will have an initial allocation of \$30 million.

"The heritage fund will operate under the guidance of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. He will be assisted in his decisions by a heritage fund advisory council."

Our sense of that was quite specific. The fund was not to be used to maintain other funds or programs in existence across northern Ontario. It was to be a new, independent fund, with guaranteed money over a set period of years—in the case of this bill, 12 years.

So I was quite surprised—and I must say I was more shocked than anything else—to see that already in this fiscal year, once that money is allocated, \$5 million of that money, or several million dollars of that money, will be siphoned off to maintain the northern Ontario regional development program.

I have to say that the member was absolutely right. We have already seen an example of it in this fiscal year. What is going to happen next year: \$5 million or \$10 million to Nordev, \$6 million, \$8 million? Who knows? Year after year, what other programs are the Liberals going to find in northern Ontario that they have to boost up? They can draw from the heritage fund of supposedly \$30 million, which is already down to \$25 million this year, and support every other project that is going on in the north.

I have to say that if they are going to do something, they should do it right and not lead the people of northern Ontario to believe that this is new money, which is what the minister said in this House. He said it was new money, a fund unto itself. It is not; it is going to be used to top up other programs.

The problem is that we on this side have no idea what that is going to mean in dollars and cents over the next 12 years. In all likelihood, we could have at the end of it a very small portion of the actual \$30 million not being siphoned off for other projects. The problem that comes with this is that you have no guarantee then that the money is being used for economic development. It could be used for studies going on under the Nordev program or studies going on under other programs in northern Ontario to look at resource industries or where other projects can be developed.

That is not a bad thing, but the government should not lead the people of northern Ontario to believe that this \$30 million is a new set of money, independent, that is not going to be tapped or stolen from for other projects in order to keep other projects going. The government should not do that to the people. It should be honest. Why do the Liberals not tell us all? We have no sense, and neither does the government, of how much money is going to be drawn away every year to fund everything else going on.

We have some real difficulties with that, because the original intent of the members on this side, when they proposed such an idea, was that the fund would be independent and would be directed solely to single-industry towns at that point. I am not saying we do not support that; we have broadened those ideas as well. But at that point the fund would be independent and it would not be used to fund every other project.

If you go back to Jim Foulds's resolution, you will see that even what he proposed, the government has not done: to take all the projects in operation in northern Ontario, put them into one ministry and into one committee's hands and

ensure that the money was in a single pool and could be drawn from. But the government did not do that.

What the government has done is to set up something that is quasi-independent, that is funding everything else on earth, and we do not know what else it is going to fund, so we have no idea how much of that \$30 million we are actually going to get year after year. Not to mention the fact that the \$30 million, after 12 years, with a five per cent inflation rate, is going to be worth about \$16.7 million. I just thought I would throw that in for the minister. It is too bad he is not here.

Finally, I want to say to the minister that I am extremely disturbed at the way this whole process has operated since the Liberal government announced in its 1987 budget that there would be a heritage fund in northern Ontario. What we saw was a dilly-dallying around by this government for almost a year before some implementing legislation was finally introduced in this House.

I am glad he is coming back.

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I worry, though, that the government used this announcement again and again and again. It was announced over a year ago in the budget in May. All of us who went through the election heard it again and again, about the great Liberal commitment and the heritage fund. We all heard it again when we came back, when this House resumed, in the throne speech of November 1987.

A year later, we finally get a look at some type of legislation relevant to this fund we were promised over a year ago, which the Liberals have had a heyday about all over northern Ontario, repeating and repeating and reintroducing again and again.

As a consequence, I was extremely angry to read in the Timmins paper last weekend the minister addressing the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities. The minister said to those good people who were gathered there that this program is a lengthy process and certain procedures have to be followed. He said, "The opposition won't agree, and people are talking about how long it is taking, but they should know how long government takes."

Then he went on to say that the current delay is because of the stalling tactics of the opposition. "For the last three days, I have been waiting to put the fund in place," the minister said, "and the NDP have been ringing the bells in the House."

I want to say to the minister that he is a year too late. It is a little more than dishonest for him to

get up and tell the good people of northern Ontario that we in the opposition for the last three days have been holding up this fund which his government has seen fit to hold up for over a year. I was absolutely amazed.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would remind the member to be very careful with her language. I know this is a heated concern with respect to her, but—

Mr. Mackenzie: I have not heard anything she said that would be a challenge to the rules of the House.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Sudbury East, please continue.

Miss Martel: I repeat that I was sincerely amazed that the minister could get up and tell the people this, when he knows full well his government has been fooling around with this for over a year in an attempt to announce and reannounce and gain as much support as it could across the north for its Liberal candidates. Those guys are the ones at fault for the delay. Do not blame us for wanting to have a sincere debate on health care, which is also a major problem in the north. The government turns around and blames us that this fund is not in place. I was absolutely amazed, and I think it was extremely improper, if I may say, Madam Speaker, for the minister even to suggest this type of thing to the good folks in northern Ontario.

Maybe the minister should remind them once again that it is also his Treasurer who announced \$30 million for 1987. It is his Treasurer who did not see fit to announce \$60 million in 1988, considering now we have lost the \$30 million from last year. That is because that minister and his government did not get their act together to get this bill in place and the money out to the people in northern Ontario.

I think the minister should have told the people at that conference that we have already lost \$30 million from last year because he did not get his act together, get this bill in place and get the legislation rolling. That is what he should have told the people at that conference. That is what I would like to tell him, that it certainly was not a proper thing to tell them. I resent that as a member on this side of the House who has waited over a year, after the grand announcements from the Liberals, for anything like this legislation to come to light. It is really too bad, and maybe the people of the north should be aware of that.

In conclusion, I want to say we support the principle of the bill. We support it because it was our idea in the first place. It is not a Liberal idea, it is not a Tory idea and it is not a new idea. It was

not something the Liberals dreamed up last year in the budget of May 1987, the saviour that they thought. This whole idea was put forward, as I say, over 10 years ago by people on this side of the House, and people on this side of the House have spoken about it again and again and again. It has taken 10 years for a government in this province to see fit to at least accept the principle.

But we will not be supporting the bill unless the amendments my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon moves are accepted by the members of this House. We will not because, as I repeat, in our mind, the funding is absolutely inappropriate. Thirty million dollars, which is not new money, over 12 years at a five per cent inflation rate, is going to equal about \$16.7 million in the last year. The government would have been much better to take our idea of \$500 million over three years, which would have assured adequate and stable growth and completion of very important projects which are out there but require a much more substantial amount of funding than \$30 million on a yearly basis.

It is a sham because the composition of this board has not been guaranteed in this legislation. I hope that members on the government side are going to accept our amendment to ensure that those groups I have already mentioned are represented, because they are best able to speak on behalf of northern Ontario. It is a sham, because this government did not see fit at least to put in \$60 million in the first year to make up for the \$30 million we have lost.

Finally, I am extremely disturbed that there is no guarantee that the money is going to come from resource taxation. That is the one stable source of revenue that can be guaranteed year after year and that can take the wealth that is taken out of northern Ontario and put it back in. I use the example, again, of the tax on softwood lumber to point out that money is there, that money is stable and it is that type of money that should be earmarked for this fund to ensure the moneys are in place year after year for this type of development.

It is with extreme regret that I must not support this bill because I agree with it in principle, but the mechanics of it, which are not set in stone, are very vague. Because of the whole principle of the money, which is not enough, and because of the principle that the funding is not coming from a secure source—that is, resource taxation—it means I cannot believe there will not be problems with it and it will be adequate for development in northern Ontario.

Mr. Harris: The member for Sudbury East talked about the comments that were made by the minister in Kirkland Lake on Friday, blaming the opposition for this bill being held up. I quite concur with the member that we have been waiting for this bill for well over a year now. It was first announced well over a year ago.

I have checked the Orders and Notices. The first time it ever appeared in the daily Orders and Notices was last week and the first time it appeared as the number one order—in other words, the thing we want to get on with today in the business—in fact, it never has been number one. It was up high enough yesterday that it would finally have got going after we finished the first order of business, and it is up high enough today.

Who comes out with these Orders and Notices? It is the government. The government tells us when it wants to do it and that indicates a little bit of the government's priority.

I know the member has not been here for a long time, but I also know she is a very capable and competent member and she has been through a number of bills now. I wonder if she has any comments about how long it would take any dummy to draft a bill. The first page is definitions, the second page talks about setting up the corporation and the third page has three little sections with the short title of the act. In her experience, would she not think that she could draft a bill like this or have it drafted perhaps in five minutes or surely in no more than one day? Yet we have been waiting well over a year before the government has been able to come forward with anything as flimsy as this particular piece of legislation.

Mr. Pouliot: Words of wisdom indeed and also words of caution. There is nothing repetitious that was mentioned by my distinguished member, the member for Sudbury East. It is too little indeed and certainly too long a wait for the people of the north where 10 per cent of the people certainly did not expect 10 per cent of the provincial budget. Certainly not; that would have been in the order of \$3.8 billion. We said we liked the principle. However, this is less than one tenth of one per cent. We also have higher expenses. We cover 90 per cent of the land base.

When all is said and done, they have built up expectations as a government. They have wrapped the bill with a great deal of trumpet fanfare. People are expecting a lot—\$30 million. When all is said and done, it will not have much of an influence, as the member for Sudbury East has so well indicated.

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Not only will it not have much influence, but we were given the guarantee by the present government that the \$34 million that was generated by virtue of the softwood lumber imposition has not been spent either. The commitment for the northern heritage fund was \$30 million for 1987 and there was \$34 million in 1987 from softwood lumber—\$64 million. Aside from the normal rate of interest, not one cent has been spent. There was \$30 million of commitment and \$34 million in revenue. The government has very little credibility with this kind of simple mathematics.

Mr. Kozyra: In reference to the comments made by the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris)—I believe the words were, "Any dummy could draft this bill within five minutes"—I would like to point out that those are inappropriate comments. Those bills are drafted basically by civil servants, and I think it is inappropriate language to be used in that reference.

Mr. Pope: I do not know what the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra) was defending. However, I just want to comment on the speech by the member for Sudbury East. I thought it well put forward the perspective.

I wonder if the member can comment on any reaction she has had from her community of Sudbury and her riding of Sudbury East with respect to the fact that this government promised \$30 million last year and did not deliver on that, not one cent for the people of northern Ontario. It now has taken an extra \$64 million out of the north in the lumber tax and has actually spent nothing in return for that additional revenue, let alone addressed the economic grievances of northern Ontario and the people of Sudbury.

I wonder if the member can address that issue and also comment on the fact that when it comes to resource development issues that affect northern Ontario, and particularly the sensitive and wise use of the resources around Temagami, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) did not even see fit to have the Minister of Northern Development on the platform with them yesterday when they made that major announcement, which indicates a new strategy or process involving resource allocation in this province which ignores the Minister of Northern Development.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member for Sudbury East, two minutes in reply.

Miss Martel: I want to start by responding, first, to the member for Cochrane South (Mr.

Pope). I say to him quite openly that most constituents who come into my office, after the resolution I did on the heritage fund, could not believe that it had been almost a year that the money in this fund had been promised and yet we in the north have not seen it. But I must say that they were not surprised, because they are getting used to that kind of promise and that kind of breaking of promises by this government.

There was, first, the increase in taxes, which was a major blow; but second, there was the whole changeabout on Sunday shopping and on auto insurance. This is just one more drop in the bucket of a whole bunch of promises that this government has already broken or is on the way to breaking, so they are not surprised in the least.

In terms of not having the minister at the press conference yesterday on the announcement of Temagami, I would say that if I had been the minister, I would have been a little bit more than embarrassed, considering that also in his statements on the weekend he stated, and I quote, "Northerners should be responsible for making their decisions in this regard in terms of development in the north."

I noticed it was very surprising that of the 180-some submissions to the Minister of the Environment requesting an environmental study, over 60 per cent of those came from associations or groups in northern Ontario that requested a study, an environmental assessment, in the Temagami situation on the Red Squirrel Road. I would say that if I were the minister, I would be a little bit more than embarrassed about what his dear colleagues did to him yesterday during that press conference.

In response, I just want to wrap up by saying that we have waited long enough. I go back and say I resent the fact that the minister would get up and tell people last weekend that a three-day delay over here has caused a whole delay of this whole project. For the last year it has been those people who have not moved on this issue one jot. They have used it as a major publicity stunt across northern Ontario but they have not seen fit to put it into action. That is a complete disgrace, and northerners deserve better.

Mr. Harris: I am pleased to have the opportunity to be able to comment on Bill 116. First of all, the parliamentary assistant seemed to question my comments when I spoke earlier and used the words "any dummy could draft this bill." I do not know why the minister, who ran over to him and said, "Please say something," took offence at that. He is very sensitive. I am not inferring that he is a dummy or the parliamentary

assistant or the drafters of the bill. That was not the implication at all.

What I was referring to, and it will allow me to proceed into my remarks, was the fact that the minister for over a year has been saying: "It is a very complex problem. We have to study it from this angle. We have to study it from that angle. It takes a long time to draft a bill like this piece of legislation." We were expecting—I do not know what we were expecting—a year in the drafting, a year in the making. We know, or at least we presume, that the minister would have wanted to proceed at least before the end of the last fiscal year so that the \$30 million allocated to northern Ontario could have stayed in northern Ontario.

I was expecting a very complex piece of legislation that took a year of expert draftsmen to draft. Probably drafts would come to cabinet, would be reviewed and would then go back. That was what we were led to believe was going on for the past year. Then we get a bill that obviously anybody could draft in five minutes. It did not take expert draftspeople to draft this piece of legislation. I know in the Legislative Assembly and in the ministries of this province we do have expert people who can draft bills. I have also seen how fast they can draft much more complex and more sophisticated bills than this.

What we have is a bill that does not make any decisions at all. It leaves all the decisions to be made down the road. There is so much flexibility in this piece of legislation that surely even the minister cannot expect us to believe that this took a year to draft and approve after the Lieutenant Governor, reading the Premier's speech from the throne well over a year ago, indicated, "This is what we want to do." Then the Treasurer came along last year and said, "I have budgeted \$30 million for it." Clearly, the minister must accept responsibility on behalf of his government.

I assume that he tried. Obviously, he was not able to convince the Premier (Mr. Peterson), the Treasurer and his cabinet colleagues, and only the public and time can judge whether it was because the minister was ineffective or whether the Premier really did not give a damn about the north.

These are the comments I was referring to and they lead me to this piece of legislation. It is a sham. For a year, it is obvious to us now, nothing was done. They said: "Look, we had the throne speech. The Treasurer has \$30 million in the budget. The papers are picking it up across

the north like wildfire. They think something is actually going to happen. Why do something? We are going into the election. We don't have to do anything."

The name of the game is not to help the north. The name of the game is to win the election. It is very obvious when we see this piece of legislation that is what the name of the game was with the northern Ontario heritage fund announcement.

1550

I want to concur with some of the comments my colleagues from the New Democratic Party have made that it was not a Liberal idea. It was not the idea of the Premier; it was not the idea of the Minister of Northern Development. It was an idea that had been talked about in northern Ontario for a period of time. It was an idea that had been talked about by a number of people in northern Ontario for a period of time.

The New Democratic Party had talked about it. So had our party. I will talk about the differences between the two parties and where I disagree with the New Democratic Party and why we were not in favour of what it proposed then and really what it is proposing now, but that does not mean we cannot agree on what has happened with this particular piece of legislation and its history and where it has gone.

It obviously was an election idea. The Minister of Northern Development was responsible, between 1985 and 1987, to report back to the Premier, to the Treasurer, to cabinet, to the strategy people: "What will fly up there? What will all people buy up there? What will win us votes up there?"

It is very obvious that when it took a year and they came out with this, they still do not in fact have any understanding of what it really is that people want. They heard the term "heritage fund." They said, "Whatever program we come up with, that's the buzzword, because people in various parts of the north know what that means to them."

The New Democratic Party knows. If somebody talked to them or one of their members talked about a heritage fund, they have a very clear idea of what it means to them; and the people in our party have a very clear idea what it means to us, as do people in Kirkland Lake; but those ideas are not necessarily the same. If you announce it and do not define it, everybody thinks: "It's my vision of the heritage fund. Isn't this great?"

That is what you do to try to win elections. It worked. They won the election. They got some

support in northern Ontario. Obviously now we see it was misguided support, and the people in northern Ontario are starting to recognize that.

Then the great disgrace of it is, from September 10 until last week—I guess two weeks ago it was finally introduced—through all that period of time the minister, it appears to us—or the Premier ordered him or the Treasurer ordered him, "You must delay this bill," because this bill says the money will go into the heritage fund whether it is spent or not. It says it will accumulate in there and come out of the Treasury. Obviously, the minister accepted. He delayed the bill until after the fiscal year end.

If this bill had been brought in and introduced into this House before the end of the fiscal year, if it had been brought in before March 31, then there would have been no way the Treasurer could have justified snapping that \$30 million back into the general revenue fund and in fact there would be \$30 million plus interest sitting in the fund.

It really is a sham, and I guess it is a shame for the people of northern Ontario, who really thought maybe something was going to be done by way of this northern heritage fund.

Maybe I will start talking about the bill a little bit. I also want to comment on a few other things.

When we talk about five minutes to draft it, there are samples of all this stuff around. Even my staff could draft it in five minutes. Actually, they are not dummies; they could do it in four.

For "corporation" there is a little definition, and for "fund." All of those words are defined. "'Minister' means the Minister of Northern Development." It would take a year of research, I guess, to really figure out what that means.

They are going to be incorporated as a body corporate. "The affairs of the corporation shall be administered by a board of directors consisting of not fewer than 12 persons." Maybe it took a year to figure out whether they should have 10, 12, 14, 16; I do not know.

Miss Martel: They should have 17.

Mr. Harris: What did they say; 17 in Kirkland Lake? They still do not have it together yet, I guess; but no, not fewer than 12. So it could be 17 or 100. I guess if, in the great riding of Sudbury, where they have a Liberal member now, they needed two or three patronage appointments to keep everybody happy, they will add two more and it will be 19. That probably took a long time.

"The minister shall be a director and shall chair the board of directors." I can understand

that decision taking a year, and I wonder why they arrived at it even after taking a year to reflect on it, because I am not sure that is particularly appropriate.

"Every other director shall be appointed by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council for such term as is stipulated." That is the patronage part. Whoever the Premier wants, that is who will be on the board.

Then it gives the objects of the corporation: "to advise and make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor...on any matter relating to the growth and diversification of the economy of northern Ontario"—a pretty broad definition. What it says is, "We still do not know what we are going to do, so we will make it broad and put it in." Perhaps it is the best way to do it. I do not know whether it takes a year or not though.

Then we get to page 2: "to promote and stimulate economic initiatives in northern Ontario"—that is pretty vague; I think that would cover just about everything—"and to commission studies and enter into contracts in connection with the objects set out in clauses (a) and (b)." Fine.

Then we get to the famous section 6. Maybe this took time. "How can we make this look good, look as though they are going to get the money but still have a holdback so that even if the minister chairs and even if the Premier appoints, if these guys in the north actually get out there and do something that they may agree with and the north may agree with but that I, David Peterson, do not agree with, how can I have control so they do not get the money? As Premier, I have control of the minister. When I snap my fingers, he says, 'How high do you want me to jump, sir?' I have got him right where I want him, so here is how I will do it."

In section 6(2) it says, "The minister, out of moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature, may make grants to the corporation for deposit in the fund." That means the minister may, if he wants. The Treasurer can make the big announcement, and on budget day all the press clippings will be ready and the press kits will be out: \$30 million for northern Ontario. The press kits will go out from the Treasurer. That will be done on budget day.

Then, out of the moneys that are appropriated on budget day and approved by the Legislature, the minister may make grants to the corporation. He may actually transfer that money to the corporation and let it put it into its trust account, if you like. Not "shall." There is nothing in this legislation that says they will ever get a nickel.

In fact, if the Premier is unhappy, he will tell the minister, and they will not get a nickel. Or if the minister is unhappy, they will not get a nickel. Or if the patronage board says: "Look, these guys are trying to lean on us. We think the money should be spent in this way." If the government is not happy with that, no money goes in.

I can assure the minister that we will be moving amendments to say "shall." If he is going to set this thing up and he has announced he is going to give it \$30 million, he "shall" give them the \$30 million, not at the whim of the minister.

It says, "may make grants to the corporation for deposit in the fund, subject to such conditions as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable." He already has the hooker, you know, even if it is "shall" deposit the money, the Lieutenant Governor in Council—that is the Premier—can attach all the conditions he wants to the money.

Do not say it is money that is going to be spent by northerners as northerners want it spent. Do not say it is a fund that northerners are going to get, that they can bank the money. That is not what his act says. We will be moving amendments to make sure it does say that. I assume that if the minister believes in what he has told the people of the north and if the Treasurer believes in what he told this House, they will accept those amendments which will enact what they told us they believed. I suppose if they do not accept the amendments, there is parliamentary language and there is unparliamentary language, but the people of Ontario and the people of this House, if they do not accept those amendments, will have to judge whether they meant what they said or not.

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Members get the gist of the bill. It goes on to say: "The corporation may invest money deposited in the fund in" and it lists some things. I do not object to that clause. I presume that is for getting a return on the money while they are waiting to see how they are going to spend it. "Securities issued by or guaranteed by Ontario...; securities issued or guaranteed by the International Bank...; deposit receipts...; and other investments authorized by the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

I am sure that would not have taken a year to draft.

"The corporation may use any money deposited in the fund to further its objects and"—that is what it is set up for—"may provide financial

assistance by way of grant or loan and may guarantee any loan."

"Every guarantee is guaranteed by the Treasurer.

"The accounts and financial transactions of the corporation shall be audited annually by the Provincial Auditor." That is a standard clause in every bill.

"After the end of each fiscal year, the corporation shall prepare an annual report." That is standard in every bill.

"This act comes into force on the day it receives royal assent." That is standard in every bill.

"The short title of this act is the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Act, 1988." That is standard in every bill. That is it.

That took a year for this government to come forward with. I repeat and I submit to the House that one cannot draw any conclusion from this but that they wanted to delay the bill so the \$30 million would not have to go into northern Ontario this year.

We asked the minister. I asked the Treasurer on a number of occasions. Since it took a year for the government to draft this, while we were waiting for this bill we asked these questions. We asked them in the fall and in the spring. The message they were giving us was, "We cannot figure out how to spend \$30 million in northern Ontario."

We said if it takes a year to draft this thing, why not put \$30 million extra into roads? Why not give us the money? That will benefit everybody. They could use it to reduce gasoline prices. That will benefit industry, tourism, all of us who live in the north. Both those moves will benefit the transportation costs. Those are the main problems we have for industries locating in northern Ontario. It is location, location, location. Location, location, location means, "Are you close to the market?" "What does it cost you to bring in your supplies?" "What does it cost you to ship to those people you sell to?"

We understand that if the market is not right beside us in northern Ontario, it is more expensive to get supplies in and out. So you lower gasoline prices. That benefits that. If they would improve the transportation corridors, that benefits that. If they looked at perhaps hydro subsidies for us in northern Ontario, since we have to use so much more hydro because of climate, they could have done that. Natural gas subsidies, if they would have liked; there were lots of little things they could have done. It would not have taken a lot of imagination. But

they either did not care or they would not do it. So we lost \$30 million in northern Ontario.

Mentioned too was the \$34 million that we lost in the softwood lumber tax. That was promised. I can recall when the Premier went into Sudbury before the election, and he said: "This money will be returned to the benefit of the forestry workers in northern Ontario."

What has happened to the money? Nothing. We do not have it. I am a little surprised that now they are supposedly setting up a \$30-million fund, but then we do not know if that is to fund the existing northern Ontario regional development program or not. At one point the Treasurer said that only \$5 million will go into that. We have had different answers. So we are not even getting the softwood lumber tax back. That is money that has been sucked out of northern Ontario.

I do not want to get into the argument about whose fault that is. Whose fault is it? The Minister of Natural Resources says he did not agree with the way the federal government was proceeding, and yet of course we saw that it was indeed the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources who said, "Yeah, we agree. Offer him 10 per cent. Go that way. Try and buy your way out of this;" and the federal government did.

Do members know what was wrong with that position for Ontario? That was the right position for British Columbia to take because British Columbia's stumpage fees, which caused the problem, were less than half of what Ontario's were. They should have been increasing their stumpage fees. They should have been agreeing to do that.

Had the Ontario government made representations to the other natural resource ministers and to the federal government, saying, "Look, Ontario is not the problem. We have had Frank Miller and Leo Bernier and Alan Pope as ministers. They have done the responsible thing all these years and the stumpage charges in Ontario are not the problem. You guys, look what a wonderful job they did. We are not the problem. In fact, it is British Columbia and Quebec, British Columbia primarily, that the United States was concerned about." Had we taken and adopted that position, I do not think it would have cost Ontario anything. I think the fees would have been where they were supposed to be in British Columbia and where they were supposed to be in Quebec.

Of course, in 1984 when the Americans talked about doing the same thing, let us face it,

they had plants shutting down and felt that the supply of wood in the Canadian industries was cheaper than there. They felt they had a case. It turns out they did have a case, but not against Ontario. When we had a minister who understood the problem, he went down and convinced the people what was wrong. The evidence is very clear that this government blew that issue, and in writing.

Now, to get back to the point that I really want to talk about, we are looking at about \$34 million a year being sucked out of industries, in northern Ontario primarily. So what does the federal government do? After Ontario sold us out, the federal government says, "Look, even though you guys sold the thing out and we had to make this deal because of where you were going, what we will do is we will give you back the money."

The federal government, in my view, probably made the best deal it could under the circumstances, particularly when it knew that British Columbia had to charge more and that Quebec had to charge more. Ontario was so stupid—it did not know what the situation was—it agreed and did not fight the battle. So after making the best deal it could, in spite of Ontario's stupidity, the federal government said, "We'll give the money back to Ontario." So every cent that comes out of Ontario in this softwood excise tax the federal government gives back to Ontario.

Now, silly us, we thought it would go back to benefit those areas where the money came from. We were silly because we believed the Premier. The Premier said unequivocally that is what would happen to the money. So we were silly; we believed him.

I do not blame the voters for believing him. I actually believed that he would keep his word. I had no idea. Misguided as I think many of his spending habits and his socialist policies are, I actually believed that when he said something he meant it.

We are finding out, on four or five or six fronts, that is not the case. I think it is important to understand that the softwood lumber tax is one of those cases. That is what happened. We got ripped off for \$64 million last year in northern Ontario.

Now we finally come out with this five-minute-drafted bill; we are dealing with it and everybody in northern Ontario is supposed to be so happy. We lost \$64 million last year, there is still \$34 million a year in excise tax coming out of northern Ontario—and it is going up every

year—and we are supposed to be excited that the government is going to give us back \$30 million.

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Mr. Pope: Maybe.

Mr. Harris: Maybe we will get \$30 million back, and we are supposed to be excited about that?

Then the minister goes on to say: "It doesn't matter what happens 12 years from now, if inflation goes five per cent or six per cent a year. It doesn't matter if the excise tax brings in \$60 million 10 years from now. We're going to flat-line you. You won't get a cent more than \$30 million for the next 12 years." That is what the minister has told the people of northern Ontario. I do not know why he expects northern Ontario members of the Legislature to come down here and want to support this.

Interjections.

Mr. Harris: Let us take a little break while the interjections—

The Acting Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member for Nipissing please continue; and would the other members refrain from their private conversations?

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do not know whether you are going to be able to control the Minister of Natural Resources. He is uncontrollable many times, but I appreciate your efforts.

I want to get into what the fund is for, because we do not know from this bill. We have some general, vague commitments, if you like; words that if in fact the Premier thinks, "You've been good little boys in the north and we agree with everything you're doing, and if the minister thinks you've been good," they will actually transfer the money; but we are not really sure what it is for.

I want to talk about why we need assistance in northern Ontario versus southern Ontario. I want to talk about the size of the grants that are coming out for some of the plants in southern Ontario. I want to talk about that because to my way of thinking, with regional development or assistance to a region, you look at that as a government and say, "Look, part of this province is booming." Toronto, let us face it, is doing very well. I applaud them for it. I think it is wonderful. Toronto is doing very well, but we have some regions of the province that are not doing as well as Toronto.

A government takes the decision to offer assistance to a company to locate in a region of

the province that is not doing as well as another. That, to me, is the reason for regional development assistance. That assistance should offset any difference in cost that an industry would face by locating, let us say, in Sudbury, Timmins, Thessalon, North Bay or Sturgeon Falls—any difference in the cost of operating that business there as opposed to southern Ontario.

That is why a provincial government offers incentives. The federal government offers incentives for regional disparity reasons across Canada. A provincial government gets involved on a provincial basis.

We have said we are going to put \$30 million into a fund, presumably to assist with some regional development problems. Yet week after week, announcement after announcement comes out for plants for the Metropolitan Toronto area in southern Ontario. We cannot afford to house the people who are here now, we cannot afford the transportation systems for the people who are here now—

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: You did it for 42 years.

Mr. Harris: We did for 42 years, but we cannot today, it appears. We have no planning and we cannot seem to afford the infrastructure for Metropolitan Toronto now. For three years now, two ministers of Housing have virtually thrown their hands up in the air. We have had 30-some programs come out since they have been in government. After they came out with program 1, the problem is worse. So they try program 2; the problem is worse. And it has become continually worse.

I do not understand why the government is giving grants to companies to locate in areas where we cannot house and feed and provide the infrastructure for the people who are here now. Quite frankly, the people of Toronto are not asking for grants. Surely, down at Metro council if somebody announced another plan and another this and another that, the government is going to say: "My gosh, how are we going to do it? We can't house the people we have." Why are they doing this? If the company wants to locate here, the land is there and everything, that is fine. But why is the government assisting?

Example after example has been pointed out where the government gives \$40 million in one shot for a plant in southern Ontario, \$60 million for another plant in southern Ontario, and it allocates \$30 million per year which it thinks is going to—they could get more if they stayed in southern Ontario, if the name of the game is to get grants.

If it is not for grants or assistance to industry, what is it for? The government does not tell us in the legislation. Quite frankly, I want to talk about the Nordev program. It is important. It is important because the Treasurer has told us that, for the \$30 million, one of the conditions says, "may make grants subject to such conditions as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable."

Much to our surprise, the first condition we found the Treasurer attached to it was that \$5 million of that must go into the Nordev program that previously came from the consolidated revenue fund. That is where the first \$5 million has to go. We are off to a great start and a great example as to how this is going to operate if the first thing the government says is, "Look, we'll take \$5 million out of there, then we don't have to put it in out of general revenue as we always have year after year."

I want to talk about grants and subsidies. That is what the Nordev program does. I have said in this House on a number of occasions that this government should be reviewing its grant programs. In a recession, in a depression, when companies are losing money, they cannot afford to expand, to build, I think there is a role for government to play to assist.

That is how the Nordev program was born; it was born in a recession. It offered grants in northern Ontario for business people, small business particularly, companies that would invest in the north during a time when many plants were laying people off. That incentive worked. The government keeps touting the Nordev program. It was a very successful program.

I think it should be reviewed now. I think we are giving some money away in the Nordev program that should not be given away. I am prepared to stand in this House in front of the people of Nipissing and say there are companies, folks, in my riding that have got grants that do not need them; did not particularly want them is not the right word, but they would have expanded without them. They are not silly. They said: "Hey, government, I'm going to build this. What are you going to do for this?"

Then they check around and say, "Well, if you're going to invest \$5 million in this plant and everything else, have you checked with the government?" "No, I haven't checked with the government. I've got the money. I've got the financing in place." "Well, why don't you check, they might give you some?" "Well, I don't need it. I've got the plan in place. It's

approved by the bank. I'm going ahead." "Well, check anyway." They do—and they get the money.

When 8,000 extra civil servants are hired, as this government has done, a lot of the work they do is justifying the programs. We are at a point now with our grant programs where I feel there is a tendency to give money to those who do not need it, so the government can take credit for the jobs they create. That is the name of the game. This program is a wonderful program. It created 1,000 or 50,000 jobs. But if the 50,000 jobs were going to be created anyway, they blew taxpayers' money; they put people into competition with other industries unfairly, and that is what many of them object to. I am not afraid to stand in front of them and say we should be very careful during booming times.

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Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Give me the names.

Mr. Harris: Well, I encourage my people to get the money. If the government is going to go and drop it out across the north whether it is needed or not, I am going to take it.

I bring these examples up because there are many areas where we should be spending more money. There are many industries where we could be spending more money. There are many things we could be doing in northern Ontario.

I bring some examples of some things we should perhaps look at. We should review whether the money is being spent effectively or not. When I give the examples of money being invested in southern Ontario, if the government has to give a company \$60 million to encourage it to set up business in southern Ontario today, there is something absolutely wrong if the government has to give it a grant. In this economic climate, with business booming, if the government has to give it a grant, there is something wrong.

I wish members of the House could have heard the speech to the Canadian Club by Premier Frank McKenna, a Liberal Premier. Frank McKenna said something I agree with. Obviously, to get elected in his province you have to be a conservative thinker, whether your colours are under the Liberal Party or not. Frank McKenna said to the Canadian Club here in Toronto a few weeks ago:

"We are interested in your investment in my province. We are interested, and we think you should be interested in my province because of my access to the American market. You should be interested because of the labour force that we have in my province. You should be interested

because of the lifestyle we have in my province. If you want grants, we do not want you in my province. I do not want you guys in my province if you want grants from the government."

He said it for two reasons. First, he said: "We can't afford to give you grants. We offer you everything else." But he also said: "The important reason is, I do not want corporate people in my province who are looking for government handouts every time they turn around. I don't want that attitude in my province. It pervades the whole segment of industry and society, and I am purging my province of that attitude."

That was a Liberal Premier. Surely we should be thinking about what he is saying. Surely we should be looking at a booming economy in southern Ontario. Plants need government grants? What is going to happen when there is a recession? Can members imagine how many of them will be asking to be bailed out if they truly needed the grants during the booming times? It is either that, or they did not need the money at all and we are throwing it away and wasting it.

I think members should think about these things.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We will remember in the north. No more grants for Nipissing.

Mr. Harris: No. Nipissing, with the representation it has, will continue to get its share. As long as the government comes up with a program that gives it away, whether it is smart or it is not, I will encourage the people of Nipissing to get their share; and quite frankly, they do.

I mentioned the \$64 million, the disgrace that was last year. I mentioned the politics that obviously went into this announcement of the program. It has been evidenced by the bill we have seen here. I have talked about what the fund is for. We have no direction. We have talked about the money being pulled out of this and put into Nordev, an existing program. So they are going to cut funding there.

I have talked about reviewing programs. That is where this government is so lacking. In this case, I am talking about northern Ontario. This government must be continually reviewing what it is doing. What works in boom times is not necessarily what works in recessionary times; and what is needed in boom times is not necessarily what is needed in recessionary times. I know others want to take some time to speak on this particular piece of legislation, but I, for one, condemn this government for really not looking at northern Ontario as northern Ontario is, for continually missing the mark of

what is appropriate in these times versus what was appropriate five or six years ago.

I have very constructively tried to put forward suggestions. Some mean-spirited son of a gun may politically say, "Harris is against grants for Nipissing," and interpret my remarks that way. I am prepared to take that chance and use my own riding as an example, not somebody else's riding or some other region of the province, and put before you the very legitimate concern I have about how you are spending money.

I would look forward to the amendment that members of the New Democratic Party may be putting forward. I know that our critic, the member for Cochrane South, will be putting forward amendments. For all the reasons I have stated I really do condemn this government for its lack of action in northern Ontario, for its lack of understanding of northern Ontario and for what is perceived as its deceit of the people of northern Ontario in the way it has handled the whole northern heritage announcement throughout the period of the last couple of years.

Mr. Campbell: I am pleased to rise at this time to enter into this debate as a member from Sudbury and a member from northern Ontario. I am concerned that in my comments I try to clarify and focus in on what this really means to northern Ontario.

I think that since the government first announced this intention to establish the fund, the Minister of Northern Development has canvassed northerners through northern development councils on what the fund should do and how it should be structured. That is the important part of this. Any of this consultative process takes time, and our aim in establishing the northern Ontario heritage fund reflects that consultation and gives northerners a financial mechanism that will help them take control of their own economic destinies and see more of the wealth generated by the north returned to the north.

In recognition of the need for a long-term commitment to the north, this government is pledging an initial commitment of \$30 million to the northern Ontario heritage fund each year for the next 12 years. The fund will be managed in an account separate from the government's consolidated revenue fund.

We will also examine the feasibility of having a financial institution manage the fund's moneys to maximize its earnings, and the fund will complement—not duplicate—existing government activity. That is an important point because a number of people have raised that.

This is in addition to any other programs that would happen in northern Ontario, whether it is capital funding for hospitals, for schools or other areas. This is not intended to be making up funds for other ministries. It is a separate, stand-alone fund.

The board will carefully review relevant existing programs of the provincial and federal governments to identify these areas in which its own strategic investments would be the most useful. The fund's board of directors will be responsible for establishing specific criteria for the fund's disbursement, but its broad mandate includes a number of things, such as providing assistance to single-industry communities experiencing economic disruption from layoffs or shutdowns.

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To ensure that it is a truly northern fund, a board will be established composed of northerners broadly representative of all facets of northern life: small and large business, industry and labour, manufacturers and tourist operators, women, francophones and natives. Some of the members of the board will come from the northern development councils. The board will be responsible for establishing specific criteria for the fund's disbursement.

But its broad mandate will include, as I said earlier, in addition to the assistance to single-industry communities, assisting with the development of new technology, especially in the resource sector; helping small businesses get started or expand their operations; and supporting special projects that promote the long-term growth and diversification of the northern Ontario economy. The fund will complement, not duplicate, existing government activity. To achieve that purpose, the board will carefully review relevant existing programs of the provincial and federal governments to identify those areas, again in which its own strategic investments would be most useful.

The fund is developed by northerners to help northerners and to deal with the very serious problems that have plagued northern Ontario. I am concerned that, in dealing with just one source, a resource tax of some form, the problem is that the cyclical nature of that industry does not create long-term stability, and such a fund would deal with that in the communities of the north that very much need it.

The provincial cabinet will ask the board of directors of the corporation to look at the following issues within the context of the

general mandate: technology development, small business development and special projects that promote the general mandate of the heritage fund. While it is up to the board of directors of the northern Ontario heritage fund—and that is northerners again making those decisions—to decide which projects to support, the general aim of the fund is to promote the long-term economic growth and diversification of northern Ontario and to support community initiative and self-reliance.

There are a number of things about this fund that are different from other funds that have been proposed. It is a long-term commitment to the north, a minimum of 12 years. A substantial financial commitment, \$30 million per year, has been made to northern Ontario. As has been mentioned about other special projects or special commitments, if in fact there were an auto parts plant in Sudbury—and perhaps some time that will happen—that would be in addition. Our understanding is that this fund will be in addition to any of those kinds of economic activity that would normally occur.

The board, made up of a broad cross-section of northerners, will have the authority to allocate money from the heritage fund, up to \$1 million to an individual project, without going to cabinet for final approval. That does mean that northerners are making those decisions. The corporation will keep its funds in its own account, separate from the province's consolidated revenue fund. All unspent funds in any one year will remain in the fund and be carried over for use of the corporation in future years. The corporation has the authority to invest any funds not needed in the short term, and the interest earned will revert to the corporation's account. So you see, it is not only that amount of money, it is actually more.

The board has the responsibility of defining its own specific terms of reference consistent with the act.

Those kinds of specifics are the kinds of initiatives this government is proposing, and let me say that there are a number of other things that this government has proposed which show that kind of initiative taking place. We are looking at 1,600 jobs being relocated to northern Ontario by this government, some \$200 million, with some \$48 million for construction and payroll in Sudbury. Those kinds of things are separate and apart from this fund. So I want to assure the House not only that this \$30-million heritage fund is being used but that other initiatives are taking place in northern Ontario.

I am concerned that the House realize that these kinds of initiatives by this government in a very short period of time are taking place. The Premier came to Sudbury and announced a number of jobs being relocated to Sudbury—and where better?—covering activities of the ministries of Northern Development and Mines, the things we do well in northern Ontario; but as well establishment of a centre of excellence in northern Ontario, creating other jobs that are spinoff effects.

But it is not only the civil service jobs that are being created and being moved—not created in the sense that the third party would like to have us believe—from Toronto to northern Ontario, it is the amount of private industry that will follow because of the increase in Sudbury's reputation, a very fine and long-standing reputation in the mining industry and mining technology.

I think that all of these other spinoffs show this government's very serious commitment to northern Ontario, and I am very concerned that this message not be lost to northerners, that these things are in fact happening not only in Sudbury but in North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay, just to name a few.

I want to summarize the key points of the northern Ontario heritage fund in closing. It is a long-term commitment by this government to the north, funded initially for 12 years. It is a substantial financial commitment of new moneys—\$30 million per year, \$360 million in total—administered by a board made up of a cross-section of northerners who will have the authority to allocate up to \$1 million to an individual project without cabinet approval.

The corporation will keep its funds in its own account separate from the province's consolidated revenue fund. All unspent funds in any one year will remain in the fund to be carried over for use by the corporation in future years. The corporation has the authority to invest any funds not needed in the short term, and the interest earned will revert to the corporation's account.

Miss Martel: I have several questions for the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) and I hope he can respond to them.

The first is that at several points during his comments he made mention of the fact that the board will be representative of northerners and specific groups: labour, etc. As both myself and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) went through the bill, I noticed that that is not enshrined anywhere in this bill. I certainly hope that when it comes to moving amendments,

when we move an amendment concerning the specific makeup of this board, he is going to support us in that.

Second, he made a great deal of mention about the fact that this fund will complement and not duplicate existing programs. He went on to say that this fund is in addition to other programs and is separate from other funds. I would like to know if he can explain to this House how it is, then, that the minister has said some several million dollars—\$5 million, I think, is the correct figure—is actually going to move to Nordev to supplement the Nordev program, which we all know is funded by this government, is in existence and would not continue in existence unless it was supplemented specifically in this fiscal year by money from the heritage fund. I wonder if he can explain that particular predicament to me.

Third, he made a great deal of comment about the fact that it was sufficient funding over the long term. I would like to ask him if he can give me some idea of what types of projects \$30 million in one fiscal year can purchase. I point out to him that my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I have been doing some work, in particular on a proposed fertilizer plant in northern Ontario, the price tag of which is \$35 million alone, one project to be located somewhere in northern Ontario. I would like him to give me some idea of how many substantial projects he thinks \$30 million in one fiscal year is going to fund.

Finally, in talking about how we should not lose sight of what the Liberals have done in the north, I wonder if he can explain to me what he tells people in northern Ontario when they look at the fact that we have already lost \$30 million from last year, and there was no guarantee by the Treasurer in this budget to give us that \$30 million so that in fact we should have \$60 million. I would like to ask him what he tells people about the \$30 million that has already been lost.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I have a couple of comments and questions to the member for Sudbury. I find it hard to believe that a northern member of the Liberal caucus would stand up in his seat and praise this fund so elaborately. I really want to know why he thinks that \$30 million in funds for this year is adequate reimbursement for the north in terms of a heritage fund, given everything we are taking out of it.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: That is \$30 million extra, on top of everything else.

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Mr. R. F. Johnston: We are talking about a heritage fund here, I would say to the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), a fund which is supposed to help develop the north in a special kind of way. A government which promised \$30 million last year and did not deliver it, is not offering \$60 million this year, \$30 million and \$30 million, but in fact is still only offering the same money it was promising last year. Rather than see this as an incremental investment in the future, it has said that \$30 million in 1988 dollars will be the amount that will be available in the fiscal year 1998 as well and that this basic erosion of money going into the heritage fund is something that he would support as the member for Sudbury. Of all members in this province, I think he could say that in fact we should be increasing on an incremental basis, systematically, the amount of money we put into the heritage fund, given that we are extracting from the north so much in resources, which is going to leave it without the necessary funds to redevelop itself in an appropriate fashion. To use 1988 dollars only is something I hope he will speak up against in terms of the interests of his own constituents.

Mr. Harris: It is a sad day for the residents of the city of Sudbury, I say through you, Mr. Speaker, in asking a few questions of the member.

I really have to tell the member that if he wants to help the north, he must learn to speak up for the north. He must not allow the \$30 million to go back to the Treasury, the way it did last year. He must not allow the softwood lumber tax not to be reinvested back in the north.

There is nothing the matter with pointing out to his cabinet colleagues that he, too, has concerns about the people of the north, and I encourage the member to do so. I know he has to get up and congratulate the minister and say he is going to support the bill, but there is nothing the matter with speaking up for his constituents as well. In fact, I suggest to him that is what he is elected for.

If indeed that is the case, I would ask the member a couple of questions. One, will he support amendments to this piece of legislation to index the \$30 million to inflation? It is not good enough to say, "Oh, another budget can increase it." We know that. What we are saying, since they want to entrench for 12 years, is that, surely, \$30 million 12 years from now should be worth what \$30 million is worth this year. At

the very least, that amount of money should be indexed.

I also ask the member whether he will support amendments to this legislation which insist that the money go into the fund, that he not allow the discretion of the Premier and the minister to say, "No, we are not going to put any money into the fund this year."

Mr. Pouliot: I have some difficulty understanding the rationale of the member for Sudbury. I have no difficulty with our caucus when something is wrong. Maybe it is the style, method and approach that differentiates us from the Liberals—certainly it looks that way—and maybe from the Conservatives. But it seems that when we have some legislation—and we do stand alone, collectively so or individually so, at times up north—there is a sort of bond that crosses party lines.

When they are doing it to you, surely someone with strength of character, if he is elected, thinks, "What am I doing here?" When all is said and done, this is not a game. I am here to represent the aspirations of the people who have given me their confidence. That is the mandate that I have, so there is nothing wrong with the member for Sudbury at least using some discretion. Under other circumstances I think it is called "taking a walk."

One has to stand for the very special part of Ontario that we represent; to say, as the member for Nipissing has said, that the bill lacks strength, it lacks definition, it lacks commitment. We spoke highly of its intent. We agree with its rationale, but the way those two pages of paper stand, they give us very little protection. There are too many ifs and buts when it should be so straightforward, because with \$30 million, we are already getting shortchanged.

Mr. Campbell: I guess in my other position, when I was chairman of health and social services in Sudbury, I saw the sense when our community was so devastated by the downturn, the change in the economic climate and all of the jobs that were lost in that period.

It was ironic. On one of the trips with the regional chairman at the time, when I came down as a part of a delegation, I think the thing that was most impressive in my mind and causes me to speak out very strongly on this issue was that, as I walked through the Whitney Block, there was a thumping machinery noise going on.

We asked, "What is going on over there?" They mentioned that it was the wire rope testing plant. I was really concerned, and said, "Are mining companies not the ones that use these

facilities the most—some elevator work, but basically mining companies?" Yes. So when we went into the meeting with the government of the day and suggested relocating it up north, they said: "Oh, no. We cannot do that."

I wondered about job creation in the north and what it really meant. I guess when I say that I am working as hard as I can to make sure these relocation plans continue and keep going, that expresses where I am coming from on this. That is why I think that, in addition to those initiatives, the heritage fund is a very important part of this northern strategy. It is a key point, but it is not the only point. I think it is very important that we all realize that there are a number of initiatives.

Mr. Laughren: It is appropriate that I follow the member for Sudbury, since his riding joins mine and he is a person with whom, until today, I have had a decent working relationship. But what I saw in question period today I did not like very much.

For the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay) and the member for Sudbury to play the kind of game they did today was inappropriate. I expected it from the Minister of Correctional Services. I did not expect it from the member for Sudbury—

Mr. Campbell: I did not.

Mr. Laughren: —and I do not think the member for Sudbury should play innocent. He knows full well what I am talking about.

Mr. Speaker, if I could get back to the bill, which I know you are about to direct me to do anyway, as you know, as a long-time fan of northern Ontario, which I know you are, this party proposed a kind of heritage fund for the north a long time ago. We called it the tomorrow fund, or one could call it the northern Ontario fund. The name does not matter. We have always pushed very hard to have a fund for northern Ontario, so it is not without a great deal of anguish that I stand in my place today and tell the House I must vote against this bill, because in fact—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: What have you got against northern Ontario?

Mr. Laughren: I am glad the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) has asked me what I have against northern Ontario. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that people such as the Minister of Natural Resources want to continue the same kind of development or lack of same in northern Ontario that we have experienced for the last 100 years. This government has done

only one thing, one thing, when it comes to northern Ontario, and that is transfer civil servants from Toronto to northern Ontario.

I support that move wholeheartedly. I have never questioned that. We have always said it was the right thing to do and long overdue, but is that the present government's answer to northern development? Well, it certainly appears to be.

When you combine the fact that that is all they have done, plus the fact that they have stolen \$30 million from the northern Ontario heritage fund in the first two years, you have to question their commitment to northern Ontario and what they mean by northern development.

I want to tell you, Mr. Speaker, they are a bunch of bandits over there. They promised \$30 million a year ago and \$30 million this year. On top of that there is over \$30 million per year coming from the softwood lumber tax. And what are we getting? Thirty million dollars. They have not stolen \$30 million; I was being too generous. They have stolen about \$60 million from northern Ontario. That is correct. They promised us \$60 million by now, plus over \$30 million from the softwood lumber tax, and they are giving us back about \$30 million via the northern Ontario heritage fund.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, do you think that is fair? I would not normally put you in the position of asking you that question, but you have insisted that I go through you; therefore, I am doing it.

The Liberals are not fooling anyone in northern Ontario; no one. People up there understand that they should have \$90 million in the kitty and that they are getting \$30 million back. It is exactly what they understand. I ask those members, particularly those in the chamber who are from northern Ontario—I see the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) here, I see the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) here, and I see the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra) here; it gets a little thin after that.

Those members surely understand and must be hard pressed to explain to their constituents what happened to the missing \$60 million. Where did it go? I know where it went. It went right into the consolidated revenue fund to be spent over the entire province, with no commitment to northern Ontario whatsoever out of that money. There was a very clear commitment that it would be spent in northern Ontario.

I guess the real issue that separates this party from the Liberal Party, although I do not think

the Conservatives would agree with this, is that the Liberals think they can walk that free enterprise line in northern Ontario the way they can in southern Ontario. As an example, having heard the member for Sudbury talk about Sudbury's problems in the last 10 years—they were very severe problems, and people in the community pulled together and tried to make things better—the thing that has kept Sudbury's head above water has been the public sector.

The public sector created the jobs in Sudbury when Inco and Falconbridge pulled the plug.

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: I did not hear that interjection. It was not the precious free enterprise system that the Tories are always raving about and that the Liberals are always flirting with that saved Sudbury. It was the public sector pouring money into the Sudbury community that kept it afloat for the last 10 years.

I see some of the Liberals nodding their heads, but they always do that so silently. Of course, if you nod your head and it is not silent, then it is an indication of something loose, so perhaps they should take that as a compliment.

I feel very strongly, as does the rest of my caucus, that unless the government understands that basic principle, that northern Ontario development requires public intervention, then nothing is going to change in northern Ontario except a few more civil servants up there. That is all that will change. It is not going to change without public intervention. It never has.

As a matter of fact, even to keep it at the level it is at now has required public intervention. There was \$100 million and change poured into the pulp and paper industry to convince it to modernize its plant and equipment, over \$100 million, from a sector that has taken a great deal out of northern Ontario and it is still not a modernized sector in the northern Ontario economy.

A few years ago, the former member for Sudbury East and I worked together to try to develop a model as to how to develop northern Ontario, and we felt very good about that. The previous government did not pay much attention to it because it was obvious that it required some intervention.

Just in case members might be nervous that we were calling for something radical, such as taking back unto ourselves the resources we already own, we did not even suggest that, for heaven's sake. We knew that would freak out the Tories. We did not say, "Bring Inco and Falconbridge into the public sector." No. We

said, "Let's work with them," even though I think—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That's not what Elie said.

Mr. Laughren: I am glad the Minister of Natural Resources is interjecting.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: It's true, though. You know that.

Mr. Laughren: I believe, and I will believe until the day I die, that the nonrenewable resources of this province belong to all the people and not to a few in the private sector. I will always believe that. I think it is such an important point, Mr. Speaker, that I think you should really count the members in the chamber and see how many of them are hearing these words.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells rung.

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The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt may continue.

Mr. Laughren: I would like to welcome to the chamber this afternoon the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine), who has dropped in to hear some comments about his bill.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I was here all afternoon. Where were you? You should have been here—

Mr. Laughren: I was in the standing committee on resources development.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt will address his remarks through the Speaker and ignore the interjections, of course.

Mr. Laughren: My train of thought was broken by the minister for contracting out all across northern Ontario.

I started to say, before I was so rudely interrupted by the ringing of the bells, that we developed a model for economic development in northern Ontario. We thought the model we used could be used in different parts of northern Ontario. We were not suggesting for a moment that Sudbury was the only community that needed to have economic development and some intervention on the part of the provincial and federal governments. We were saying: "At least we have put together a model. If only the government would take a look at this model in a serious way, we could see if perhaps it would work in other communities as well, using different particular industries, but nevertheless using it as a model."

This is the kind of thing this bill should be doing, but we are not going to do it with \$30 million. I hope the Minister of Northern Development

will stand in his place and tell us what \$30 million will do in northern Ontario in terms of economic development. What will \$30 million do? Well, let me see. It will build 10 miles of road, or maybe 15 miles of road if you are lucky.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Or a pulp mill.

Mr. Laughren: Will it build a pulp mill?

Mr. Pouliot: It certainly wouldn't buy us a pulp mill.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: The \$30 million is only approximately the amount that one entrepreneur was asking as a provincial contribution for a grant to help to build a waferboard mill.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: He got it.

Mr. Laughren: No, he did not get it.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Oh, yes.

Mr. Wildman: But even if he did, that would deplete it for the whole year.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) is not in his seat.

Mr. Laughren: I hope very much that the Minister of Northern Development will feel obligated to tell us what his plans are for that \$30 million and what kind of economic development will take place in the north with \$30 million.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Nothing.

Mr. Laughren: I think I heard the minister say "Nothing," and he is absolutely right.

What we have tried to say to this government for a long time is that it needs a major injection of funds to get the thing kick-started. That is what you need if you are going to have economic development in northern Ontario. This \$30 million is a drop in the bucket.

Mr. Speaker, can you imagine how it feels as a northern member to stand in one's place and vote against a heritage fund for northern Ontario? Surely that tells you how rotten this bill is: for us to be standing in our place and saying we are going to vote against this bill. Because I want to tell you, even if it were half good, even if there were anything good about it, we would at least say: "Well, the principle is OK. We will vote for it." But they are playing games with us.

What further evidence do we need that the government is not serious when you see \$30 million as the amount of money being put into the plan? That really is a joke.

I do not know what has happened to the Minister of Northern Development. I can remember that when he first got elected and was appointed to the cabinet, he was full of beans and he was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed as he charged all across northern Ontario. He came into my constituency, and we had a very good visit in a community called Chapleau. I was full of hope, and so were the people in that community, that this minister, who was from northern Ontario, understood the problems of small communities. We really thought that things were going to start to happen in northern Ontario, we really did; and I give the minister full marks for his beginning. He was out of the starting blocks like Ben Johnson. Since then, however, he has tripped over his cabinet colleagues.

An hon. member: Like Zola Budd.

Mr. Laughren: No, he has become the woman who tripped on Zola Budd.

Anyway, the minister started off well, but he really has stumbled. I do not want to be unfair to my friend the Minister of Northern Development, or he will start abusing me again, but the word across northern Ontario now is that the cabinet has pulled the chain very, very tightly on the minister and he no longer has the clout he had even when he was first appointed to the cabinet. And I regret that. I think that is too bad.

The minister should know that we were on his side. He had a lot of friends over here. He still has friends over here, but not in a political sense. We are very disappointed that the Premier and other members of the cabinet have not seen fit to listen to the Minister of Northern Development, because I think he had the right ideas when he was elected. But it did not take them long to bash him down, I will tell you, and to nail him down to his seat, because nothing has happened now that the minister talked about when he was first elected.

The minister was really excited about his new position and he talked a great deal about how he could use, for example, transportation links in northern Ontario to develop the north; he talked a lot about intervening in order to help small communities, but none of it is happening, none of it.

I should not be unhappy with the Minister of Northern Development; at least he is here and listening to the debate.

I do want to tell members the kinds of things that we thought should have been done in northern Ontario a few years ago, when we were really going through a period of economic

decline. While things are better now in the north than they were then, the unemployment rate in communities all across northern Ontario is still twice as high, basically, as it is in southern Ontario.

The mining companies are looking for experienced employees.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I am trying to be serious in this discussion of Bill 116, the northern heritage fund bill, but it is difficult to concentrate when the member for Brant—

Mr. Miller: Plain old Norfolk.

Mr. Laughren: Plain old Norfolk. I never looked at Norfolk that way myself, but if he says it is plain old Norfolk, I guess it is plain old Norfolk.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Nickel Belt has the floor.

Mr. Laughren: When we took a look at the economy in that part of Ontario known as the Sudbury basin, we decided there were a number of things that should be done. I hope members will keep this in mind as a kind of model, not as something that we can transport from one community to another in the north but rather that it was an attempt to say that there is hope for communities in northern Ontario.

These are the kinds of things we wanted to do. We wanted to establish a nickel institute, which would do an independent geological survey of mineral resources in northern Ontario and look upon ways to increase the domestic production of nickel and nickel-based products.

We wanted to look at resource upgrading. Now, there is a subject on which I could speak for days, and that has to do with the whole question of resource upgrading. At the present time in the Sudbury basin, we have two major nickel producers, Inco and Falconbridge. Inco has its underground operations, its smelter and its refinery and does a fair amount of processing. Falconbridge, on the other hand, has been there for many years—it must be almost 50 years in Sudbury now—has a smelter. It digs out the ore, which is dangerous; it does the smelting, which is dirty; and then it stops and ships the ore to Norway for refining.

An hon. member: Norway?

Mr. Laughren: Norway.

Just so members know, the Mining Act has section 104 in it, which says that the resources of Ontario shall be refined here. But what does

the cabinet do? It grants an exemption to section 104 to Falconbridge. It still has an exemption.

I cannot imagine a more telling insult, a real symbol of an attitude towards the north than that one, saying: "You can take our resources. You can smelt them"—which implies the smelter, with its stack and all the pollution that comes from that—"but when it comes to the cleaner work, the refining, you can ship it somewhere else and do it; not here."

At the same time this government was making the argument that Falconbridge could not afford to build a new refinery, what did Falconbridge do? It bought Kidd Creek Mines for about \$500 million, as I recall. At the same time it was crying poor to the cabinet members, who believed them, suckers all, it turned around and bought Kidd Creek. I ask, what kind of commitment is that by a government to northern Ontario? Does it really think it is proper for a company to do that after 50 years?

I worry that if free trade ever comes in, we will not even be able to change that. The government will not be able to say, "You've got to process it further here." The clause in the free trade agreement says that, and we really worry about that.

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We have urged the government for many, many moons to stop giving that exemption under section 104. It would have to give a warning to Falconbridge, because it takes time to build the refinery. But it would speak volumes about this government's attitude to northern Ontario: not just to Sudbury, but to northern Ontario.

I am glad the Minister of Natural Resources is in his place and I hope he will think about that. In the past, he has said, "Yes, we'll think about it," but he has never done anything. He has caved in, just as the Tories used to do when Falconbridge would come wheeling down here into the cabinet room and demand that the government not do it because, after all, the company could not afford it.

They would buy the argument every time. I would love to play poker with the Minister of Natural Resources some time because he is so easy to bluff. He was clearly bluffed when Falconbridge said, "We can't afford to build a refinery," and then turned around and bought Kidd Creek.

An hon. member: No match for Bill James.

Mr. Laughren: No, that is for sure. That was one of the—

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I am being heckled by some very hard-working members of the standing committee on resources development who travelled northern Ontario and worked very hard on the whole question of fatalities and accidents in our mines, but that has very little to do with the need for Falconbridge to build a new refinery in Sudbury.

The other thing we have been trying to convince various governments to do, and this would apply all over northern Ontario, is to build some resources machinery, mining and forestry machinery. The previous government established what is known as the Ontario Centre for Resource Machinery Technology in Sudbury, which has never, ever built even a drill. Nothing. They do not build anything. They are a marketing tool. Fine, let them do it, but what has that got to do with building mining machinery?

I will say this as long as I am an elected member, or until things change: We are the number three producer of minerals in the world, and we are number one in the importing of mining machinery.

What does that say about our attitude as a sovereign country? That we cannot build mining machinery? We have the domestic market for it, for Heaven's sake. If we built the mining machinery here, we have the domestic market to use it, to expand, to develop expertise and to get out into export markets then. But, oh, no. Where do we buy our mining machinery? It is not from the Third World. It is not from countries that pay a dollar an hour. We buy mining machinery from places like Sweden, Germany, Japan and the United States. It has nothing to do with low wages, nothing at all.

But there is no will on the part of this government or the previous government to say, "Any country that's number three in the world in the production of minerals shouldn't be number one in the importing of mining machinery." It is as simple as that. Yet no one wants to move; no one wants to intervene. The government seems to think that if the private sector does not do it, it is not worth doing. That is some attitude for a country like Canada.

If you look at the development of this country, it is not hard to see that when things have been worth doing, they have been done by the public sector; whether it is transportation or education, it has been done by the public sector. Canadian Pacific Railway would not have built a railroad across this country on its own.

Yet when it comes to the development of northern Ontario, the government does not do anything. As a matter of fact, I have just been told that the resources centre's mandate has been expanded to invest in enterprises other than mining machinery, because there are no companies interested in developing mining machinery in the private sector.

What does that say? It says that the private sector is quite happy with the status quo, quite happy to leave things the way they are and keep on buying mining machinery from other high-wage countries. How does that make sense? We have the raw materials for making the machinery. We have the domestic market. We would soon have export markets if we would get into it. And the government, instead of doing something about it, expands the mandate of the resource machinery development centre so it can invest in other enterprises. It has given up, in other words.

I think it is time that the Minister of Northern Development took a look at the mandate of the resource machinery development centre to see just what it is doing and what it has done, and how it has benefited northern Ontario.

A few years ago, the government was making noises about moving in on that centre to determine whether it should be allowed to continue and whether there should even be one there. We have always supported that there is a need for an organization to build mining machinery to work with the private sector and to have joint ventures. But if they will not do it, use a crown corporation to do it. There is nothing radical about that, for Heaven's sake, and yet the government simply looks the other way.

I want to tell the members from northern Ontario who are still here, who are hanging in, that it is not going to happen with the private sector. They will not do it. They will continue to take out the ore and they will continue to cut down the trees, but that is where it will end. If members need any more evidence than 100 years of history, tell me, because that is what they have, 100 years of that kind of economic development. Yet the government is still carrying on as though it had not changed from the Tory regime. It just carries on the same way.

I do not want to spend too much time on that. I want to get on with the other things that we thought should be done. We wanted to require Inco to build a new smelter because of its pollution problem. We wanted them to establish a fertilizer plant in Sudbury. I am glad I

mentioned the fertilizer plant. I am glad I did not forget to mention that because I want to tell members what happened. Where did the Minister of Northern Development go?

An hon. member: He heard you say "fertilizer plant" and he left.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. Just because I mentioned "fertilizer plant," I did not mean to imply that I was stepping on the minister's turf.

A couple of years ago the provincial government commissioned a report with Jacobs International Inc. and Blue, Johnson and Associates to look into the feasibility of building a fertilizer plant in northern Ontario. For those members who think it is unusual to have a fertilizer plant in northern Ontario, let me tell them why it makes such sense.

Two of the key ingredients in fertilizer are phosphate and sulphur.

An hon. member: Among other things.

Mr. Laughren: Among other things.

There is at Cargill township, up near Kapuskasing, a substantial deposit of phosphates. There is at Sudbury, and at Timmins for that matter, an enormous amount of acid that is going out into the atmosphere now in the form of sulphur dioxide. We all know that problem: acid rain. We thought, why not put together the Cargill phosphate deposits up near Kapuskasing and the sulphur at Sudbury or Timmins—I prefer Sudbury—and create a fertilizer plant? We import our fertilizer now. So the government commissioned a study to do that.

The study was presented last year and never released until we started pursuing it. The steelworkers in Sudbury started writing letters to the Premier (Mr. Peterson). We followed it up and started writing letters to the Premier. Finally, we find out there is a report. Here it is, a substantial report, a substantial document. But did the government offer to release it? Did the government hold a press conference and say, "We have completed our study"? No, not at all. They sat on it until they were forced to release it.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It was at a public meeting.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: No, this document was not released until—

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: It was in the newspaper.

Mr. Laughren: It was not a public meeting. I am getting a little tired of the Minister of Northern Development playing fast and loose

with the facts. It was not a public meeting; it was a closed meeting.

An hon. member: You know everything.

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Mr. Laughren: I know it was.

The consultants suggest that it is a viable option to build a fertilizer plant in northern Ontario. They tended to zero in on Timmins more than Sudbury. That is what they said in the report. I think that is wrong for a couple of reasons. First, we have been front and centre, as has the rest of the Sudbury community, in calling for this for a long time. Second, what is the number one location of sulphur dioxide pollution or acid rain in North America?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I know. Sudbury.

Mr. Laughren: Sudbury, that is right.

Now it seems to me it is good to have substantial backup—

Mr. B. Rae: I've always felt that.

Mr. Laughren: —which our leader will tell you. He has put the leadership race behind him.

The report recommends or suggests that it is a viable option. It says that more studies should be done, but the government is doing nothing, absolutely nothing. Here you have phosphate deposits just sitting there, not being developed at all, in Cargill township. You have the acid rain spewing out and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) making all the right public relations noises. But they are nowhere when it comes to developing this fertilizer plant, absolutely nowhere.

An hon. member: When it comes to the crunch, they don't protect the environment.

Mr. Laughren: When it comes to the crunch, they do not protect the environment. That is correct.

An hon. member: We saw that this afternoon.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, we saw that this afternoon in the standing committee on resources development, as I recall.

Surely to goodness it is not appropriate to continue to spew out the acid and to have the phosphate deposit sitting there. At the same time, we are importing our fertilizer. Why not put the two together and build a fertilizer plant?

If the government is gun-shy about establishing a crown corporation to do it, surely to goodness it can work with the private sector to do it. Why not? I have not heard a government member, a minister or anyone say why the

government will not do it. They simply do not do it. It is absolutely ridiculous.

When it comes time for the Minister of Northern Development to talk about the north, it is always in platitudes: what he is going to do for northern Ontario. When it comes time for specific projects, the minister is out to lunch. Tell me what he has done. The members opposite cannot; it is obvious they cannot.

I did not want to spend too much time on the fertilizer plant. I did not really intend to get into this debate today.

One project I thought would have been very good would have been to use the nickel that comes out of Sudbury for the production of stainless steel, of course, to build surgical instruments. We import an enormous amount of surgical instruments into this country. We have a massive medicare program, not just in Ontario but all across Canada, and it was our view that there should be an attempt to manufacture surgical instruments in Ontario, and why not?

It would not have to be in Sudbury, but transportation costs for surgical instruments are not a major deterrent to their manufacture. Why not, as a form of economic development, do it in Sudbury? In the last numbers I saw, we had spent an average in Ontario of \$7,500 per hospital bed that went to imports. For every hospital bed in Ontario, \$7,500 went to hospital products imports, and surgical instruments are part of that. There is an enormous deficit in trade on surgical instruments.

There is another example: nothing difficult.

Mr. Campbell: Let's get started.

Mr. Laughren: The minister of—perish the thought—the member for Sudbury asks why we do not get started. He is asking the wrong person.

An hon. member: How much would the fertilizer plant cost?

Miss Martel: It is \$35 million.

Mr. Laughren: I think about \$35 million.

Mr. Wildman: There isn't enough in the fund.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: My colleagues have brought something to my attention, and for that I am grateful to the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel). To build one economic development project in northern Ontario, such as a fertilizer plant, costs \$35 million. There is not enough money in the entire northern heritage fund to do that. There is not enough for one project. Maybe

if they built it close enough to Sudbury, they could build the road to it. That is all they could do; no plant.

It should be sinking in on the member for Sudbury that he is surrounded by people who do not give a diddly squat about northern Ontario.

Mr. Miclash: What great friends over there.

Mr. Laughren: Well, it is true. Go and talk to the cabinet ministers, my friend, and find out what their commitment is to any part of northern Ontario.

The Deputy Speaker: The member will address his remarks through the Speaker.

Mr. Laughren: I do not know whether the member for Sudbury is nodding sagely or nodding off, but he should understand—

Mr. B. Rae: It sounds like he's nodding sagely.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. The comment has made that he sounds like he is nodding sagely. I do not want to be unfair to the member for Sudbury, even though the member for Sudbury was grossly unfair to me earlier today.

I will get back to Bill 116.

The Deputy Speaker: Yes, please.

Mr. Laughren: What I would like to know from the Minister of Northern Development—it would be nice if he could attend the debate from time to time.

An hon. member: He cannot sit still for more than five seconds.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. The Minister of Northern Development is not in his seat, yet again, for a debate on his bill.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Move adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Laughren: I think it really is not appropriate for the debate to continue without the Minister of Northern Development here, and I seek your guidance, Mr. Speaker, as to whether or not you would entertain a 10-minute adjournment until the minister gets here. Or how would you prefer to handle that problem? May I ask for a ruling from the Speaker?

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, on the point the member has asked for: Certainly on behalf of our party, I would be prepared to support the thrust of what the member is suggesting.

Let me compliment you, Mr. Speaker, on being the only Speaker I have ever seen who, when a request was made, delivered and brought the minister back. I congratulate you for that and suggest it is appropriate that the member carry on now with his speech.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you for your point of compliment. The member for Nickel Belt may continue.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for Nipissing for his support and you for your diligence.

As for the Minister of Northern Development—

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: The Minister of Northern Development cannot have it both ways. He cannot pretend he is interested in this bill and not attend during the debate. That simply is not his prerogative.

I understand why the Minister of Northern Development is a bit short-tempered these days. Can members imagine, as the minister of all northern Ontario, going to the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston) and the Treasurer and saying: "I've got all these wonderful plans for northern Ontario. Here they are, and they add up to about \$300 million."

I am guessing at this, but I can just imagine the Minister of Northern Development, who has a vivid imagination and great ideas of what could be done, going to his cabinet colleagues and saying, "I think I need about \$300 million to get things started," and having them say to him: "All right, Mr. Fontaine, we will take a look at your proposal for \$300 million and we will get back to you. Now go back out into the waiting room."

The Minister of Northern Development goes back out into the waiting room. They call him in, perhaps the next day, and say, "Well, we do not have the \$300 million you wanted, but we do have something for you, Minister." The minister says with great anticipation, "You did not cut me back to \$250 million, did you?" The Chairman of Management Board says to the minister: "No, we did not cut you back to \$250 million. We are giving you \$30 million," probably about 10 per cent of what the minister asked for.

I can hear the minister then saying to the Chairman of Management Board and to the Treasurer: "Wait a minute. You can't give me \$30 million. We've already turned over more than \$30 million from the softwood lumber tax. There was last year's \$30 million, and now this year's \$30 million? Out of almost \$100 million, you are giving me \$30 million that already was supposed to be coming back to us?" Holy mackerel.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Leo Bernier never would have taken this, he said.

Mr. Laughren: No. Leo Bernier would have resigned if he had been treated this way.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: The minister tried that.

Mr. Laughren: The member from York should not be laughing at that interjection.

It really is a sad day in Ontario. It is more with sorrow than anger that I stand and speak against this bill, it really is.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The House leader is here now. He's got him under control.

Mr. Laughren: I think the House leader just put a short chain on the minister's leg over there.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Nickel Belt will address his remarks through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is remarkable how attentive you are.

Despite the fact that there is very little money committed to northern Ontario, if this bill spelled out some of the projects—not specific projects, but the idea that they were going to work with joint ventures, they would use crown corporations, they would work with the private sector—if there were some specifics in this bill that indicated to us that there was a serious change of attitude towards northern Ontario, I, for one, would support the bill. I, of course, cannot speak for all my colleagues, but I would support the bill.

But the way this bill is now, it is vague. There is no indication that the government is serious about it. As a matter of fact, I will go right back to my comments at the beginning. If there was a major amount of money promised to northern Ontario or if the bill were designed in such a way that indicated there was going to be serious intervention in northern Ontario on behalf of the public sector, I could support the bill. If either one of those factors were built into it, I could support it. Both are absent: lack of financial commitment and lack of any kind of interventionist commitment to make sure that the economic development of northern Ontario is different than it has been in the past.

I am surprised. It must really be difficult for some of the northern members of the Liberal caucus to swallow this bill. That is why I am looking forward to this bill going out to committee all across northern Ontario and having people come before the committee to tell us their plans for this \$30 million. It would be interesting to know what the list would be.

Say the Minister of Northern Development ever sent a questionnaire out to municipalities, for example, in northern Ontario and said: "We have about \$30 million here. Would you give us an indication of what you would like to do with it?" Can you imagine the kind of suggestions he would get? He would get a lot of good suggestions. I will bet—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Again, would you please address your remarks through the Speaker?

Mr. Laughren: I started to talk about the northern members of the Liberal caucus. If this bill were passed—I am not at all sure it is going to pass, by the way, when the vote comes—I could not imagine going back to my constituents and saying, "Well, here is Bill 116, the northern heritage fund, and I want you to know that I supported this bill." My constituents would say to me: "Oh, we have a northern heritage fund. Now, what can we do with it?" Then trying to explain to them how virtually every single project they suggested would have to be turned down because there was no money: \$30 million. It is a ridiculously small amount of money, \$30 million, to cover northern Ontario.

As a matter of fact, how much money did the provincial government pour into the dome? It was \$30 million. How much money was put into the automobile plant in Cambridge? It was \$50 million. One project was \$50 million, and the other project was \$30 million, but for all of northern Ontario we are going to get \$30 million.

It is not just the amount of money for this year. The government has compounded the insult by saying: "It is not just \$30 million. It is \$360 million over 12 years."

Well, if you take \$360 million and you put in \$30 million every year for 12 years, that is what it comes to. At the end of 12 years, what do you think that \$30 million is worth, by the time it gets to the year 2000? It is worth \$16 million, about half. What is \$30 million in the year 2000 going to buy you compared to what \$30 million will buy you today? Very, very little.

Mr. Wildman: They should have put \$360 million in in the first place.

Mr. Laughren: My colleague, the member for Algoma, is absolutely right, and I am glad he is back in his seat and interjecting where it is appropriate to do so.

If the government had been serious and put in \$360 million as a beginning to really get the

fund going and to really give northerners a sense that this government was going to do something meaningful, I would be in my place supporting this bill. I really would.

Keep in mind that the whole idea for a heritage fund came from this party. It did not come from theirs. They are a bunch of bandits, but we are not accusing them of thievery in this case. They are welcome to the bill. We are pleased that they took up our idea of a northern heritage fund.

We think that it is a good idea in principle, but they have totally devalued the currency. They have devalued the whole idea. They made a joke out of what should be a very good idea, a northern heritage fund. They really have.

Look at the way Alberta treated theirs.

Mr. Wildman: One and a half billion.

Mr. Laughren: One and a half billion, was it? Compare it to what has happened in northern Ontario.

Mr. Carrothers: He has forgotten what he is trying to say.

Mr. Laughren: The member for Oakville South is trying to give the impression, I think, that this caucus does not have a vision for northern Ontario. Perhaps I am reading too much into his interjections, but I get the impression that, every now and again, the members of the Liberal caucus think that New Democrats just oppose for the sake of opposing.

Well, that is simply not true. It is not true. If we were just standing up and saying that we are opposed to this bill because it is your bill, then there would be some argument to be made but, in every single case, we tell them what an alternative is.

That is why I felt it was so important when the former member for Sudbury East and I put together what we called a Challenge to Sudbury and said: "Here is an alternative economic development model to do something with." It was not simply opposing. It was taking a positive role and saying, "We have a vision for northern Ontario." In that case, it was a vision for that particular part of northern Ontario.

If this government were really serious, it would do that for the north. It would develop some kind of proposal that was an economic development proposal or, if you used our language, a "challenge" to northern Ontario.

As a matter of fact, my colleagues, the member for Algoma and the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom), developed a similar kind of proposal for that part of northern Ontario.

If the Minister of Northern Development were really serious, he would be doing that. He would really be thinking about it.

Instead of that, the Premier goes up to northern Ontario, holds a conference, and says to the people of northern Ontario: "All right, now we are behind you, northern Ontario. Get out there and come and see us when you need help." That is what he says, basically. I do not think I am being unfair in my interpretation of what the Premier says when he comes to northern Ontario. He says, "You tell us what you want to do and we will help you." We are telling him what we want to do.

1740

Mr. South: What is that?

Mr. Laughren: I am glad the member asked too. We can always count on the member for Frontenac-Addington (Mr. South) to come to our aid when we least expect it.

What we want the government to do is take some interventionist measures that the previous government never would. I can see nervousness, as I said before, on the part of the government, if we were saying, "Move in and nationalize the resource industries." Did we say that? Not today.

What we have said to this government and to the previous government is, "We know you will not do that." We believe the nonrenewable resources do belong in the public sector. We know this government does not have that kind of ideological bent. At the same time, we think there is a path they could walk on intervention that does not involve that. What we are really saying to them is when there is a vacuum, there is an obligation for the public sector to move in.

If there are enough grocery stores in Ontario, nobody is demanding that government intervene and build grocery stores. But if there were no grocery stores in the community, you can be sure there would be a demand for somebody—if nobody else would do it, the government—to build a grocery store in that community.

What we are saying is that all across northern Ontario there are economic development opportunities that nobody else is taking advantage of, and therefore the government has an obligation to do so. That is all we are saying. We are saying, "You do not have to muscle anybody else out of the way." We are not saying that. We are not saying they have to take over any existing businesses. We are saying, "When a vacuum is there, move in and fill that vacuum for the sake of economic development and a

better life for people in northern Ontario." That is all we are saying.

There was a day when the minister, given his knowledge of economic development in the province of Quebec, for example, could live with that. I am sure the Minister of Northern Development would not be opposed to what I am suggesting. I think in principle he could live with that, given his knowledge of what has happened with economic development on the part of the government in the province of Quebec. Perhaps you too, Mr. Speaker, are aware of that. But I think he has been totally bushwhacked by the other members of his cabinet.

So I think until the rest of the cabinet understands that we cannot treat northern Ontario the way we treat the rest of Ontario, nothing is going to change in the north. I do not see this bill changing anything.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Sudbury didn't change at all? Jesus Christ.

Mr. Laughren: Sudbury has changed a great deal. Every now and again, the Minister of Northern Development gives us these penetrating glimpses into the self-evident. He says, "Sudbury has not changed at all."

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No, I said it changed.

Mr. Laughren: He is giving me a mixed message now.

Sudbury has changed a great deal. It is no longer totally dependent—a one-industry town. All I asked the Minister of Northern Development earlier was, who put the money into Sudbury? What changed Sudbury? Was it the private sector or the public sector?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Everybody.

Mr. Laughren: No, it was not a mix. Show me the private sector developments in Sudbury in the past 10 years that have created substantial employment opportunities.

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. Of course there have been some.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Conway: You know what makes you so charming is that you're a socialist, unvarnished.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The member for Nickel Belt will continue addressing his remarks through the Speaker, as he usually does.

Mr. Laughren: There is a fine line between a ragged and a rugged socialist, a very fine line, I should say to the House leader.

I remember one time when the member for Niagara South (Mr. Haggerty) proposed that the solution to Sudbury's economic woes—

Hon. Mr. Conway: Floyd, you're not going to do this.

Mr. Laughren: I am surprised the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) remembers this. The member for Niagara South suggested that the solution to Sudbury's economic woes was for every Inco employee to buy a pound of nickel.

Mr. Haggerty: No, I didn't suggest that.

An hon. member: Yes, you did, a kilogram.

Mr. Haggerty: No, you're wrong.

Mr. Laughren: Well, I could not possibly think up that idea on my own. I remember very well those dark days in Sudbury, back in those days when Sudbury was having unemployment and the unemployment notices were coming at us a thousand at a time. It was very severe. The Sudbury community really went through a very, very difficult time, and—

Mr. Haggerty: Port Colborne.

Mr. Laughren: —and Port Colborne did as well. The regional municipality got together with the elected provincial members, the federal members and all of the area mayors and tried to work out some solutions.

Those were the days when those of us who are familiar with the book *Small Is Beautiful*, by Schumacher, when Schumacher's ideas were very prominent and being debated, there was a very serious attempt, through an organization called Sudbury 2001, to use those theories of "small is beautiful" to rebuild the Sudbury community. It is almost 10 years later and it did not work. Not because there was not good intent on the part of a large number of people—people worked very hard to try to make Sudbury 2001 work—but it simply did not work.

I regret that very much, because the government of the day put in, I think, about \$600 million—oh, no, it could not have been that much.

An hon. member: What was that for?

Mr. Laughren: For Sudbury 2001. They put a lot of money into Sudbury. They put in an enormous amount of money to try to make the system work, and it simply did not work. A lot of people regretted that, because the municipal leaders in the community and the federal-provincial members worked very hard and tried to make it work.

It did not work because—I guess I should not put it that way. It did not work, anyway. I do not want to start blaming people or organizations for why it would not work.

But I think what is necessary now is for this government to take a very serious look, not just at Sudbury, but all of northern Ontario and see what major projects need to be put in place in order to turn the economy of northern Ontario around.

I regret very much that when the opportunity came, in the form of this bill, the government flunked. I go back to my regrets for the Minister of Northern Development. He used to talk about taking a bill and going across northern Ontario and rallying the troops for the cause. I would challenge the Minister of Northern Development—just in case they do not send it out to committee—to take this bill, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund, and go around to every major or even small community in northern Ontario and try to convince them that this is the answer to economic development in northern Ontario, that this is the answer to reducing the unemployment rate to the level of the rest of the province.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I'll do that tomorrow. After 15 years you haven't learned yet.

Mr. Laughren: It will be interesting to see, because I will bet that this minister will not take this bill across northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I'm starting tomorrow. You'll see. Follow me tomorrow.

Mr. Laughren: I will believe that when I see it, because if the minister goes into a municipality and says to the municipality, "Here's the bill. What do you think of it?"—

Interjection.

Mr. Laughren: No, I am not being provocative. I just want the Minister of Northern Development to revert to the way he was a couple of years ago when he was bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to take on the Ontario cabinet, ready to take his ideas across northern Ontario and get people excited about him and say: "It's a new era. We're going to develop northern Ontario." I challenge the minister to do that with this bill. He will not do it.

1750

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Tomorrow, I'm telling you.

An hon. member: He would have to be honest about the bill.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, that is right. The minister would have a great deal of difficulty

convincing anyone in northern Ontario that this bill is the answer to any problem in northern Ontario. I do not know whether the minister has indicated what kind of amendments he is amenable to or whether or not he would be willing to accept amendments that would indicate that the government is prepared to have this bill worded or changed in such a way that the northern heritage fund could engage in joint ventures and could even establish a crown corporation if it were deemed appropriate. I would be interested in knowing if the minister would do that.

I go back to the problem of the fertilizer plant. The government has not heard the end of this one. They commissioned the study, they paid for it, they sat on it and released it only when they were forced to release it.

An hon. member: We didn't sit on it.

Mr. Laughren: Well, you did so sit on it. I did not see any announcement in the chamber about that report, despite the fact it was paid for out of public funds, so we will wait and see. We are going to judge the government on this bill with the kinds of projects it funds. I can see us saying a year from now to the Minister of Northern Development, "You've had your \$30 million for a year; what have you done with it?" I do not think he has done anything.

I think it is too bad that the minister is not at least listening to the debate this afternoon, because I think—

Hon. Mr. Conway: During Lent, some penances need not be served.

Mr. Laughren: Actually, I do not want to be unfair to the Minister of Northern Development. He has been here for most of the afternoon, and I should not be unfair to him.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: I do not want to prolong the debate. I actually did not intend to speak this afternoon on this bill. I thought we would be debating procedural motions in the committee all afternoon, but we disposed of that earlier.

I did want to say to the Minister of Northern Development that when he responds in his windup to the debate—which I assume you will allow him to do, Mr. Speaker—I hope he will deal with a number of questions.

I hope he will deal specifically with the following questions. Number one, will the minister agree to take a serious look at changing the bill so that the northern heritage fund can engage in joint ventures or the establishment of

crown corporations? I am very worried that if we do not have that in the bill, it will never happen; and if we do not have it in the bill and it never happens, northern Ontario is not going to change. You will never get the fertilizer plant without the kind of government leadership that so far has not been shown.

An hon. member: You need private money to put that one in place. It's not there yet.

Mr. Laughren: I am not arguing against private money. All I am saying is that if the private sector has not done it, it is not going to do it without the government providing the leadership. It is not going to happen. I am not the great free enterpriser. If I were a free enterpriser, I would not be making this argument.

Hon. Mr. Conway: We agree.

Mr. Laughren: You agree that—

Hon. Mr. Conway: You are not a free enterpriser.

Mr. Laughren: Ah, that is right. I am not a free enterpriser; I would never pretend to be.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Laughren: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to ignore the interjections. But I do want to say to members of the government that they should not be so hung up on intervention in northern Ontario as was the previous government. At least there was ideological consistency in their distaste for government intervention.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Floyd, give us the old northern food terminal speech.

Mr. Laughren: Where is the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), Mr. Speaker?

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: I started to say, before the interjections started throwing me off the track, that this government should not be dissuaded from intervention in northern Ontario. It certainly cannot make the same arguments the previous government did, that it was counter to its faith in free enterprise to intervene in the economy of northern Ontario.

I understood the previous government's commitment to the private sector. That is what conservatism is all about. Every now and again, it slipped. Every now and again, it fell off that wagon. But generally speaking, that is the foundation of conservatism, whereas the Liberal

Party just is not bothered by that. It is not bothered by any ideology. Therefore, it surely should not worry about having to intervene in the economy when it is for the good of the economy as a whole. That is all we are saying.

We are not suggesting that the government frighten off the capital markets from Ontario, for Heaven's sake. I was in Tokyo with the Premier one time, and I heard him make a speech to some of the biggest capitalists in the western world—in the world, that means. I heard his pitch, how government worked with the private sector and how there was labour peace in Ontario and so forth, and he welcomed capital from around the world to Ontario.

But you know what? If he welcomes that capital to Ontario, guess where it is going to go? It is going to go to southern Ontario, where the markets are, where the transportation network is, and that means, basically, the Golden Horseshoe. For those reasons, the government surely cannot even expect that there is going to be money poured into northern Ontario without government leadership.

Mr. G. I. Miller: What about Manitouwadge?

Mr. Laughren: The member for Norfolk (Mr. Miller) talks about Manitouwadge. There is no better example of the development of northern Ontario than Manitouwadge. If there is a good ore body, the private sector will go in and develop it.

But we are asking for a little more than that now. We are asking that the history of this province not be repeated. The government is not a Conservative government. Get that in your minds: You are not a Conservative government. Try to convince yourselves you are not a Conservative government.

The Deputy Speaker: Through the Speaker, of course.

Mr. Laughren: They should try to convince themselves that it is appropriate to intervene.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying—well, I do not know if I have time to conclude them all—that all we are asking from the government is a different kind of commitment for northern Ontario than we have had in the past. That is all we are asking. We are not asking for anything radical, anything dramatic, anything that will bankrupt the store. We are simply saying to this government, "Make the kind of commitment to northern Ontario that the previous government never made and that you have not made to date either."

To the Minister of Northern Development, I must say that I cannot imagine the anguish he must be suffering as he looks at this bill, combined with the statement from the Treasurer for \$30 million a year. Combining those two things, I can only conclude that the Minister of Northern Development, first, did not write the bill. I do not believe that this minister, who is not gun-shy about intervening in the economy when it is necessary and who understands the kind of money that is needed to turn around the economy of northern Ontario, had a part either

in writing the bill or in saying the kind of money that should come to fund the northern heritage fund.

Mr. Speaker, I can see that you are looking at your clock.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

À la suite d'une motion présentée par M. Laughren, le débat est ajourné.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breagh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Oriole L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in each issue. Lists of the members of the executive council, parliamentary assistants and members of committees, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard in the first and last issues of each session and on the first sitting day of each month.

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No. 66

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament
Thursday, May 19, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer
Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, May 19, 1988

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mr. Allen moved resolution 27:

That, in the opinion of this House, in order to enhance the capacity of Ontario's young people to appropriate their cultural past, to cope with questions of meaning and values and to understand and respond to issues of a global society and an increasingly pluralist Ontario, the government of Ontario should be encouraged to develop and promote for Ontario schools a multigrade, multifaith religious education curriculum similar to that in place in a great many publicly supported schools in Great Britain, to be taught by certified teachers with appropriate training; and this House suggests that in preparation for such an undertaking, the government should establish a religious advisory council and initiate at an early date a few pilot projects in typical board settings in co-operation with the local community involved.

The Deputy Speaker: The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation, any amount of which he may reserve for the windup.

Mr. Allen: Not being able to predict exactly how much time I will take in the introduction, I will attempt to reserve a few minutes for response at the end of the list.

Religious education in Ontario today is unfortunately out of harmony with the nature of Ontario's contemporary society, having become a very multicultural, multifaith place. It is unfortunate that, taken together with section 235 of the Education Act, which charges teachers with promoting, enhancing and inculcating Judaeo-Christian values, and with the elements of regulation 262, which relate to opening exercises, religious education is tilted in a single-faith fashion and, therefore, I believe, is inherently exclusionary and unfortunately does not open up for Ontario's young people the full riches of their community, nor can all of them find an appropriate place within the structure of

religious education as it is offered in Ontario schools today.

As I thought my way through what I would say this morning, I was tempted to jot some of it down on paper. My written speeches are never great, so I often simply try to speak to notes, but I did have some written remarks about the significance of religion and education that I want to take directly from my notes.

It is incomprehensible that any education at any level that pretends to comprehensiveness and pretends to teach the whole child should ignore or minimize religion. A cursory glance at the world around us indicates the prevalence and persistence of religion. A publicity sheet for a recent book, for example, declares:

"With massive forces lining up on opposite sides of the abortion debate in Canada, eastern bloc communism struggling with the questions of a Polish Pope and Soviet Jewry, Anglican bishops confronting apartheid in South Africa and zealous fundamentalism boiling in the Middle East, the inexplicable relationship between religion and politics becomes an unavoidable altercation which must be confronted and resolved."

True, the issues named often exhibit religious pathology. Religion can get sick, like anything else, but religion, as the root of the word implies, also binds societies and civilizations together. It heightens awareness and lends dignity to life. Our literature, art and architecture are so full of it that instructors in our schools and universities have to resort to short courses in theology to interpret them. From the youngest child's "Twinkle, twinkle, little star" and the most elegant statements of science arise questions that demand a religious response.

Religion is normally the foundation of the values that we profess, compromise them as we may; it lies at the root of the sense of authority that pervades our political system, corrupt it as we may. To deny systematic attention to religion in our schools, I submit, is to truncate religion, promote alienation of students and young people and give way to the reign of commercial and utilitarian values.

I submit that unless in our schools and in our religious education system, as we develop it, we

are able to respond positively, we will find, on the one hand, either that children will respond in that context with intelligence and sympathy to the new Ontario and to the world around them, or they will respond either with unfortunate indifference or, even worse, with ignorance and hostility to the disadvantage of us all.

Our present situation in the province is a very contradictory one with respect to religious instruction. On the one hand, there is a substantial retreat from religious education in the schools. I think that is fairly evident if one looks at the survey the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association undertook recently, with 46 boards responding to its inquiries.

They discovered that at the elementary level religious education was in a parlous state at best. Only a few boards have specific policies. Only one third of the schools in these boards had classes in religious education. Discretion is largely left to the local school and generally with the principal. Only eight boards control the curriculum to any degree. Usually, it is set by school staff, sometimes in consultation with local ministerial associations. More frequently, the program is taught by lay persons or clergy rather than by teachers, although the specific and preferred instruction in the regulations is that teachers should do that. Most of the boards have allotted only half the regulation time to teaching religious matters and all of them have allowed exemptions.

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At the secondary level, the situation is even more serious. Notwithstanding most people's views that religious studies are easier to handle at the secondary school level, the situation is dramatically worse. For example, only three reporting boards have a religious education policy for secondary schools. Only 10 of them offer a credit course in religious education. Eight of those are in comparative religion and world religions. In addition, a number have tried moral values programs in the place of religious education.

At the same time as there is that retreat from religious education in the schools, there is an apparently increasing tendency for the practice of religious education and its teaching to fall into the hands of the more sectarian members of our religious community. Thus, we have had the recent court cases that have focused upon instances where children have felt so tyrannized by the instruction, so traumatized that they have had serious, recurring nightmares which have been extremely disturbing to them. That is not

the case in just the one court case in question, but there are other reports of that as well.

I submit that religious education in a compulsory public school system cannot and never should be of an indoctrinating kind. It should not generate the kinds of pressures that result in those kinds of traumas for children. It cannot be, in principle at least, exclusionary. It ought at all points to be inclusive. It must at all points respond to the reality of the community from which children come. When that community is as multifaith and as multicultural as Ontario society now is, that program of study cannot and must not bed down on a single-faith tradition. To do so is to short-change our children and to undermine in important ways the quality of their education.

In response to this situation, there are three positions that have been taken. One is that religious education is of necessity indoctrinating, inculcating, faith-developing and nurturing; therefore it should be practised, and can only be practised, in the way in which it is present in the schools now. Those who take that position defend that position very strongly. They tend to be of the more sectarian wing of religion in Ontario, although I submit that where multifaith religious education programs have been attempted, as they have in Great Britain, it has often been possible to incorporate those groups in an understanding way within the system developed.

On the other hand, there are those who say exactly the same thing but oppose religious education. For example, that tends to be the position of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and it tends to be the position of the Jewish community in Ontario, although they tilt their arguments a little bit in one direction and another on that subject. But there are those who simply say that is the only way you can approach religious education and, therefore, it must go.

What I am proposing to this House today is that there is a third, nonindoctrinating, nondominating, multifaith approach to religious instruction that is acceptable, inclusive and enriching for both students and our society.

We have to recognize that Ontario today is not the Ontario of Egerton Ryerson's day. We have to recognize that it is not even the Ontario of a generation or two ago. Religious instruction in Ontario has gone through three broad phases, which I will not attempt to delineate since there is not time today. In some respects, that has broadened. At the same time, I think one would have to say that what I propose is to respond to the new reality of Ontario in something of the

same way that Egerton Ryerson responded to the multiplicity of sectarian groups of his day.

Egerton Ryerson attempted to build a public school system that transcended the sectarian differences of his time and got the broad support of the community for a broad approach to Christian elementals, a practical Christian or religious approach to life that would be broadly fielded in that school system. He also wrote: "To teach a child the dogmas and spirit of a sect before he is taught the essential principles of religion and morality is to invert the pyramid."

What I am saying today is that we have come in a new way to a situation similar to that which Egerton Ryerson confronted in his day, namely, we have that multiplicity of beliefs and multiplicity of faith communities in our midst and somehow we have to reach out to them all in the best spirit of the religious traditions that are part of this province. In doing that, we must, I think, at the very least explore and develop a religious education program and curriculum which is essentially multifaith and inclusive in its character. We cannot solve the problem by walking away from it. We will shortchange our children and our province if we do.

The voices of concern that have arisen around this question do not come simply from those new arrivals in the different faith communities. One would have to point out that it is almost 20 years since the Ecumenical Study Commission on Public Education, representing the major Protestant and the Catholic churches of this province, asked the Ministry of Education to undertake something of the kind of thing I am proposing today, and they have repeated that request over the years with no substantial response whatever.

One would have to note that the Keiller MacKay committee report of 1969 proposed a broadening approach to this subject and emphasized that religious education in the schools was not to be indoctrinating, and yet there was no immediate response to that document either.

When we came to the Davis announcement of separate school funding, it was amazing to see that at that time an issue that should have been raised in the context of the completion of separate school funding, namely, the whole question of religious education in public schools, was nowhere mentioned in the comprehensive response Mr. Davis proposed at that time, Mr. Davis preferring to include the question of the funding of private schools. That was quite astonishing.

When my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) and I, and

indeed the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) and others, were part of the Bill 30 hearings, we heard Protestant parents who came from long-standing families in this community coming before us time and time again and saying: "The reason we are principally unhappy with what is happening is that we see one faith community having funding for programs of religious education in the context of its school system, which is now expanded and completed, but we are not getting it in ours. Nobody is responding to our needs."

They felt very grieved about that. They did not want to go back to the old structure or even continue the present or existing structures of religious education. They agreed almost unanimously. I do not recall anyone dissenting from the notion that the new approaches to religious instruction in the schools must be on a multifaith, inclusionary basis. They were happy with that. They just wanted their children to have that kind of education in the context of their schooling.

At the same time, directors of education told us they had been trying for a dozen years to get the ministry to respond on this question, that they had time and time again proposed that something like what the ecumenical study commission had proposed was what they felt had to happen in Ontario. A few of them took the steps of developing multifaith readings for their schools, but the whole question of response from the ministry was very laid back.

At last something is happening. Anyone who has perused the clippings in this field in the last year will realize that board of education after board of education has been discussing the question. They have been pressed in some measure by a statement from the Anglican Church of Canada in which the members of that church said: "If we cannot get religious education in the schools, we may well have to look at our own schools; we may have to develop our own independent religious schools. We would prefer to stay with the public school system, but we would like the minister to move on this question of multifaith religious education."

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Boards such as the Peterborough County Board of Education picked that up and circulated other boards. Other boards began discussing it. The Ontario Public School Trustees' Association and the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario had their curriculum committees look at the question and circulate and survey their boards, so at last there is a significant response coming in from the field. I would have to say that

most of it moves in the direction I am suggesting and I think there is a new consensus being formed.

May I respond briefly to two or three of the issues that are raised in this context, however.

First, I think one must insist it has been possible, certainly at our universities, to move in the last generation from church-based theology to secular studies in religion. We have had countless numbers of Canadian young people go through those programs. They understand what it means to instruct in a religious education context that is not judgemental about the truth, or otherwise, of given religious systems. We have the capacity to respond and therefore it seems to me we must.

Second, does multifaith instruction leave Christianity behind? Well, of course not. How could it? Christianity and the Jewish community in our province are part of the historic dimension of our own tradition, so they have to be considered, they have to be a substantial part and parcel of all that.

On the question of church and state that many people are hung up on, the separation of church and state was meant to preclude the domination of church by state or state by church. It was never intended as a doctrine, in my view, to argue that publicly funded institutions should never have anything to do with religion in the broad sense of the term. Quite the contrary, it was precisely because religion was so important that this mutual domination was not to take place, but that otherwise the community through its public agencies had every right to look at an interest in and the development of religious sensibilities.

I hasten to say that must include the examination, not only of belief but of unbelief, because nonbelief and the rejection of belief is part and parcel of the whole issue.

Members will see my proposal is very modest in that it only proposes the setting up of a multifaith council to advise the minister and some pilot projects. I hope that will be taken by the government as an indication that we want it to get moving. I hope other members will stand with me and move them in the same direction.

Mr. Jackson: I rise to support the resolution put forward by my colleague the member for Hamilton West with great conviction. I am delighted and honoured to stand and support him this morning.

It was almost three years ago that my colleague the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) presented a concept similar to this resolution, a concept of incorporating into the school curricu-

lum a multifaith religious study program with an emphasis on values education. The plan was very similar to the content of this morning's resolution by the member for Hamilton West.

The member at the time was running for the leadership of our party and it is fair to say that during that period of time, the late summer and fall of 1985, the entire province was caught up in the tension and emotion surrounding the Bill 30 debate. We wanted to incorporate into the school curriculum a program which would allow students to look upon religion in a more positive way, to look upon it not as something that divides, but as something that promotes common values among people, no matter what their creed.

I remember that during the public hearings on Bill 30, which I had the privilege of participating in for over a year, at that time many families and educators expressed support for the main elements of this resolution. I remember that delegates from across the province to our leadership convention were also very supportive of the ideas set out in this resolution. They saw a clearly defined need for a curriculum which would combine Ontario's tolerance and multicultural diversity with an understanding of religions around the globe. I venture to say this same favourable response can be found not only among those people, but throughout the public here in Ontario.

Before explaining why I will vote for this motion, I want to remind members that it is important to understand exactly what the substance of this resolution is all about. The resolution uses the phrase "religious education," but this should not be a source of confusion. We are not talking about indoctrination. The motion will not force schools to instruct students in the tenets of any particular faith. Religious education will not teach students about God or even whether or not He exists. Students will remain free to keep and practise their own faith, whatever it may be. Those who think otherwise simply do not understand this resolution.

The resolution clearly states that the curriculum will be multifaith. All creeds will be studied and examined. Students will not be taught that one church teaching is right and another is necessarily wrong. Students will not be told what to believe; rather, they will be told about the beliefs of others around them.

This bears repeating: the difference between religious studies and theology is like the distinction between political science and ideological indoctrination. Students of political science examine the histories, tenets and applications of

all philosophies, but they are not coerced into accepting any particular one. In the process, students gain a greater understanding of the world around them.

Religious education will likewise expose our students to a variety of perspectives, building within our schools a climate of tolerance, mutual respect, and of course, understanding. As the member for Hamilton West has pointed out, a comparative religious program will offer benefits over and above the academic learning in and of itself. For one thing, children will learn that in spite of religious differences, there exist values and concepts common to all of us. They will come to realize that charity, human dignity, peace and compassion transcend sectarian barriers.

In their studies, students will gain a sense of the ethical and moral values or moral norms which govern the conduct of human beings everywhere. Moreover, in this multicultural society, it is imperative that our children grow to understand the history and content of the religious beliefs and practices of their peers.

As I think of my own daughter, who is growing up in a diverse and ever changing society, I am even more convinced of the merits of this motion. When my daughter, Amy, enters school I want her to understand and respect the fact that some of her friends may observe special deities or proudly wear the symbols of their own faith. When some of her classmates cannot come out to play because they observe a different holiday or a different day of worship, I want her to be accepting of and sensitive to those practices.

In the same way, I would hope that programs like this would make my daughter not embarrassed but proud of those religious customs which set even our own family apart, like the fact that between her two grandmothers she celebrates Christmas on two separate days, two weeks apart.

Does this resolution violate the concepts of separate church and state? Not at all. Religious beliefs exist as a matter of fact and therefore should quite properly be the subject of academic study.

Does it violate the charter? According to a recent decision of the Ontario Divisional Court, it does not. On March 28 of this year, the court upheld regulation 262 under the Education Act which allows for religious education, provided that issues of a controversial or sectarian nature are avoided. All three judges, including the one dissenter, agreed that while it is unconstitutional

to impose on students a particular religious view, it is certainly constitutional to expose them to all creeds and faiths.

The enabling legislation is already in place. Section 50 of the Education Act allows religious instruction in the classroom and regulation 262, which I have just mentioned, establishes the appropriate procedures.

Unfortunately, this Liberal government has failed to enforce the provisions of the existing regulations. While only 12 school boards have been granted an exemption from the religious education requirement, these rules, for the main, remain ignored by Ontario high schools and are adhered to by just one in three elementary schools. The Liberal record on this issue has lacked a certain degree of action. Perhaps today's resolution will spur the new Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) to action.

Will members of all religions, organized and unorganized, be entitled to participate in the religious advisory council and to have their beliefs made part of the curriculum, as set out in this resolution? I respond that implementation of the resolution will have to be subject to the Religious Freedom Act.

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This proposal already has the endorsement of many church leaders, representing quite a number of denominations. Indeed, one of my own constituents from the great riding of Burlington South, Archbishop John Bothwell, the Anglican Metropolitan of Ontario, has been a prime mover behind the call by the Ecumenical Study Commission on Public Education for an interfaith religious program in the classroom. At our last meeting, Archbishop Bothwell presented me with materials, including a pamphlet provided by the Anglican Church, which sum up better than I can the need for such programs.

The pamphlet asks the question, "What should be the proper place of religious education in the public schools of Ontario?" The church document answers that question and goes on to explain the whole philosophy of this proposal: "In a pluralistic society, the social fabric will split unless students are exposed to each other's beliefs and values. We believe that religious issues and values must be presented and explained objectively and sympathetically." That just about sums it up.

Before concluding, I would like to quote from a letter dated April 29, 1987, sent by the then Minister of Education, now the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), to one of my constituents, J. J.

Bud Hanna. The minister wrote about two competing principles at work in this debate. He said: "I agree with you that it is appropriate to foster respect for morality and religion. However, in our pluralistic society, we must take into consideration the wide spectrum of cultures, religions and races that make up our Canadian identity."

I suggest to all members of the House that the two different objectives mentioned by the then minister, the teaching of religion and the respect of cultural diversity, are not incompatible. We can find a way to do justice to both. The resolution presents such a way. I am very proud to stand and support it not only as a legislator, but as having been a trustee for 10 years in Ontario at a point when, on one occasion when we looked at changing the objectives for the Halton Board of Education, we inserted a line for our students which said we hope to foster in a student the moral sensitivity necessary to contribute to society. I support the resolution.

Mr. McGuinty: I am delighted to speak in support of the resolution moved by the member for Hamilton West. I think it is a resolution relevant in the sense of being important and timely in a vital sort of way. It is important to note what this resolution proposes—that is, a nonconfessional, multifaith curriculum for all grades—and to state clearly what it does not propose. The aim is not to nurture children in a specific religion, which could be offensive in our pluralistic society.

It is not the purpose of this bill to introduce religious education, in the sense that the selection and interpretation of materials would be conditioned by any one religion, into the public school system. It is not the purpose of this resolution to detract from our public school system as secular, and this is as it should be. Secular public schools belong in a society like ours because the educational system should reflect the character and outlook of society. I do not take the word "secular" to be a dirty word. The sector of society with a secular outlook is entitled to have publicly supported secular schools, but many people in our province believe that our secular schools are failing in the area of religious studies, as they fail to impart religion as a body of information.

It was 20 years ago that the ecumenical study commission drew attention to this point. Other world religions have done so, directors of public schools have done so, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation has done so, many non-Catholic parents have done so, and during my 16 years as a public school trustee I saw

recurring efforts on the part of parental groups to have this type of thing introduced into the schools.

The growth of alternative schools in Ontario, I think, reflects this need. I have no recent figures on alternative schools, but I know that a few years ago they numbered 350 with well over 50,000 students. They are increasing at the rate of 20 a year and a majority of them have been established to support this need. They cannot be dismissed with a respectful wave of the hand; they are simply and factually significant in number and size and quality. They are a long way from death through discouragement or indifference or the blight of obsolescence.

It is the purpose of this resolution to establish a program in our schools which will work to enhance the capacity of our students to appreciate our ethnic and cultural past, to cope with questions of meaning and value, to understand and respond to issues of a global society in an increasingly pluralist Ontario, and to develop an understanding of the experience, attitudes, beliefs and religious practices of mankind.

Education that pretends to be comprehensive cannot ignore religion. It will come into the school system in any event, either as prejudice or as informed sensitivity. Respect for what others believe should be an essential part of everyone's education, for all of us in this global village share common concerns.

Traditionally, education has been thought of as a process of enculturation, a means whereby the values of the past have been transmitted to the present and the future. It is a means whereby the older generation protects itself from the younger. In a pluralist society, this poses real problems for the public school with regard to religion, for the public school must serve children who come from families divided into hundreds of religious and antireligious bodies. This is pluralism with a vengeance. This is a fact and that fact has implications.

With students and teachers of diverse convictions, public schools must attempt a so-called neutrality on the great issues of life as far as the teaching of religion goes. It must operate within limited horizons, but this program would extend those horizons in a legitimate way, and the something of value that this program would impart is of great value to our society. There are ways in which the fortunes of a free society are intimately linked to the fact of a morally informed, sensitive citizenry with information and sensitivity of the kind this program would impart.

Some children may find support of faith through religious education in the school, as this program would supplement what they bring from their synagogue or their temple, their mosque or their church or their chapel. But the subject is also concerned with developing sensitivity and a sound knowledge, understanding and awareness of all religions, and asking basic questions which we all must face. Who am I? What does it mean to be human? What are my relations to man, to nature, to God, to gods? The influence of the Judaeo-Christian tradition and the other great world traditions, in so far as they pose answers to these questions, would surely be something of value to our young people.

A spinoff effect of the program would be to develop values and standards, which are more than mere habits, that go down below the soil of custom into the rock of clear conviction and are founded on the philosophy of life.

The liberal state depends upon the morality of its people. The state cannot create this morality, it has to take it for granted; and the time when we can live off moral capital seems to be past. This is primarily a function of the church and the home, but the state that is not cognizant of this fact may very well deprive itself of the kind of citizens it needs for survival.

I think the added dimension this program would bring would satisfy an important need, a need I saw in my 31 years as a university teacher. Youth are frustrated because modern life is not responding to their longings for an understanding of the place of religion in our world. Bookstands announce loudly they are turning to primitive practices, ancient cults and witchcraft, astrology and spiritualism, fortune telling, the very things which the Judaeo-Christian tradition and the other great world religions would clarify. The very dress of youth reveals its frustration. You see young people, whether it is in Munich or Berlin, San Francisco or Vancouver or, indeed, on Yonge Street.

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Our day knows only two kinds of state: the liberal and the totalitarian. The totalitarian state quite definitely does not want its children educated in the role which religions have played in our world. The totalitarian state is itself the god of its citizens; it wants its children to be educated in view of itself. But the liberal state does not choose to be the god of its citizens. It wants its children to be educated not in view of itself but in view of their own nature, their hunger to cope with questions of meaning and value. The children are only educated in view of their own

nature when they are educated in view of the ultimate end of their nature, and that is what the great world religions are all about.

The state sometimes wants to leave this ultimate end alone, and perhaps in our pluralist society it pretty well has to in terms of teaching religion formally. But the nonconfessional, multifaith curriculum proposed would make a valuable contribution to the education of our youth. It is good that our ministers of education and multiculturalism are working together to establish a multifaith committee to look at the issue of religious education in our school system.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As a young man—part of my sordid past that most members will not know about—I was inclined towards entering the Anglican priesthood. Either I fell down a slippery slope or I saw the light after that. For a period I became angrily antireligious, and now I would consider myself a blithely irreligious person. But I am standing today to say I am rising as such a person to support the resolution proposed by the member for Hamilton West, and I do not think it is any contradiction in terms of my value structure to do so. I am also a democrat, a civil libertarian and a pluralist who happens to share—

Hon. Mr. Mancini: And a socialist.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And a socialist, yes. I happen to share most of the underlying principles which most people from the Judaeo-Christian tradition would consider themselves to have as part of their ethics.

I like the resolution of the member for Hamilton West for a number of reasons, which I will come to. There is one thing I would love it to have incorporate, but I realize why, in practicality, it could not incorporate it, and that is an absolute eradication of one section of the Education Act and a whole set of regulations around the Education Act that presently exist before we move to the much more enlightened approach towards the discussion of religion and the role of religion in our school system.

The sections I think need to be wiped out are as follows:

“235(c) It is the duty of a teacher to inculcate by precept and example respect for religion and the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality and the highest regard for truth, justice, loyalty, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance and all other virtues.”

I just am very grateful, speaking personally and not on behalf of the rest of the members here, that we do not have those kinds of qualifications

required for members of the Legislature. I have talked to several of the pages here about their teachers and I am happy to report that all of their teachers happen to have this wonderful combination of attributes.

But it is an absolutely ludicrous section of the Education Act, as many members who have been teachers might know. It is also offensive in terms of the new pluralist society that we have in this country to suggest that somebody who would be coming from another faith—from the Islamic faith, for instance—should have to inculcate the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality as part of his or her function in our school system. As far as I am concerned, the sooner that section can be struck from the Education Act the better it will be for all of us.

I think it is vital that we separate out the notions of religious observance in our school system from instruction about religion, which is what I think the resolution of the member for Hamilton West allows us to do. The tradition of religious observance in our schools is one which I would like to see ended. It has a major bias towards the particular sectarian position of the Protestant Christian approach to religion, and I think for that reason it needs to be ended.

I would just refer to some statistics recently taken from the Ontario Public School Trustees' Association, which surveyed and received responses from 46 of its members, and this is what is happening in our schools today: Thirty-nine out of the 46 use the Lord's Prayer every day. It may be a surprise to some members to know that the Lord's Prayer is not something that transcends all religious beliefs; it happens to be a Christian prayer. Thirty-two of them use readings from scriptures, from the Bible, again something which, I would suggest, does not pertain to all of the students we have in the system at the moment. Only half of them have any kind of religious instruction at all, and I will come to that in a minute.

The sections of regulations that have made this come about are regulation 262, as amended. Let me read to members some of the things that exist now which, in my view, are offensive to people like myself who are irreligious and to people who have religious viewpoints other than a Christian viewpoint in our public schools. It says: "A public school shall be opened or closed each day with religious exercises consisting of the reading of the scriptures or other suitable readings and the repeating of the Lord's Prayer or other suitable prayers."

As I have indicated, what is done by practice in our elementary schools at this point is that the Lord's Prayer is used and Christian scriptures are used. That is the predominant usage, and the same kind of ratio takes place even in our secondary education institutions in the province of Ontario.

"The religious exercises under subsection 1 may include the singing of one or more hymns." Again I would just like to raise with members the question of what particular religious affiliation hymns attach themselves to.

"(6) Instruction in religious education shall be given by the teacher and issues of a controversial or sectarian nature shall be avoided." I take it, as the member for Hamilton West was saying in his speech, that it is in fact the controversial issues that, one hopes, will get kids to understand more about religious precepts and ethical bases for various communities, and they can be quite useful.

The passive inculcation of the Protestant Christian perspective is not dealt with here. That is happening, in my view, by virtue of the way we handle these religious observances.

Subsection 10 says that any kid who does not wish to take this can step into the hallway and not be involved, can be segregated; can, one hopes, withstand peer pressures to participate with people of other faiths and hold strong to his own values, whatever those may be, an aspect of our regulations which I find totally offensive and which I hope will be struck down in the courts in the coming months.

The need to have discussion of religious premises, of the varying points of view of religions around the world, is vital, in my view, in terms of the evolving Ontario, in terms of discussion of multiculturalism and antiracist curricula. That is why the resolution of the member for Hamilton West is so important for us to deal with at this time.

1050

We tend to shove heritage-language courses off to one side, outside the school system, at this point and to demean them in terms of their importance, and we have a view of religious observation that is basically biased towards a Protestant Christian approach. What we need to do is bring into the curriculum an interfaith approach to religions that will make all the kids in the school system understand the connections as well as the distinctions between the various communities of the world and, I am happy to hear the member for Hamilton West say, the whole question of belief or unbelief in terms of why

people make the kinds of decisions that they have in terms of their religious preferences.

This kind of approach has been tried in England and, I think, with some good measure of success. The member for Hamilton West is suggesting only that we have an advisory council to look at this, to develop a curriculum and to develop a few pilot projects around Ontario to see how they would work.

I say it is high time we did this. It is high time we did it in a spirit of pluralism, which has been referred to by other members. As somebody who has no particular connection with any of the sectarian groups within our society and who is widely irreligious, as I said, I can support that kind of notion. I would just hope that the government, as it follows that, will then move away from the kinds of prejudices which are inherent presently in the Education Act and its regulations to this much more progressive approach to religious education and its role in our society. I applaud the member for Hamilton West for bringing this forward today.

Mr. McLean: I am pleased today to have the opportunity to express my feelings on this resolution brought forward by the member for Hamilton West. I should let the member know right now that while I support the concept of the freedom to worship and the instruction of religious education, I must add that I believe that whether our school system is the proper place for full instruction to fully accomplish what his resolution would determine in the end is a concern to me.

It is part of the whole, and we should be wary of its becoming a part of the whole curriculum. Because of that, I fear that other important subjects are bound to suffer. There are only so many hours in the school day and only so many teachers providing instruction in our school system.

I want to say that this is primarily the reason I have some concerns with the very principle of religion within the curriculum of our school system in Ontario. I strongly believe that our schools exist primarily to equip pupils and students with a range of practical skills and factual information. As I noted earlier, it is beyond the role and responsibility of our schools to seek to educate pupils and students in an area of experience—namely, religious education—which is uniquely personal and on which subject there is no single accepted collection of writings or knowledge.

I know that the wide range of religious beliefs which now form part of the overall diversity of

religious experience in Ontario today is one of the most vivid manifestations of the diversity of our society. I know there are a significant number of Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and members of other faith communities living in this province. There are also large numbers of Christians and Jews.

These religious groups, of course, cross ethnic divisions. Many West Indian immigrants and other descendants are Christians, including Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Methodists and members of Pentecostal churches and other denominations, and the Asian community also includes Christians as well as adherents of the major eastern faiths. Of the European minorities, for example, the Italians are Roman Catholic, the Greek Cypriots are Greek Orthodox and the Turkish Cypriots are Muslims.

It is important to recognize that the faiths of these minority communities are in no sense minority religions but are major faiths which have often played a leading role in shaping world history. One cannot, for example, fully understand the contemporary world without some knowledge of the influence of Islam.

In my view, one of the major aims of education should be to broaden the horizon of all pupils to a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity of value systems and lifestyles which are now represented in our society, while at the same time assisting ethnic minority communities to maintain what they regard as the essential elements of their cultural identities.

It is clear to me that for many ethnic minority communities, especially those from the numerous faiths within the Asian community, respect and recognition for their religious beliefs is seen as one of the factors, and in some cases the central factor, in maintaining their community strength and cohesiveness. This emphasis is perhaps a case in point for having religious education conducted in a home or church atmosphere rather than in the school system, except, that is, in a historical and social context.

Any consideration of religious education must recognize that there has long been an emotive and often compassionate debate about the role of schools in relation to religion in society, a debate to which the multifaith character of schools with substantial ethnic minority populations has now added a further dimension.

Religious education is an aspect of school life which involves far more than just the imparting of a particular body of knowledge to the pupils, since it raises complex questions relating to the spiritual and aesthetic development of the individual young person as well as impinging very

directly on the essential beliefs and values of his or her family and community.

I do not believe our teachers, with all due respect—and it would have to be proven to me; they would have to be properly trained, prepared and equipped to carry out such a religious mandate—I am not so sure they want to get involved in an area of instruction in the first place. Again, the realm of religious instruction or education is best left to our religious leaders or the parents of the students.

Saying that, I recognize that it is essential that we do have some instruction in the morning. I do believe in the Lord's Prayer and I would have no objections if a verse or two were read, but I am a firm believer that the home and the community and the setting within that community is where the basic instruction should come from.

After spending a considerable amount of time discussing my concern with regard to this resolution on the grounds of the apparent conflict between the terms "education" and "religion," on the grounds that it should be taught in the home or within the religious community itself rather than in our school system and on the grounds that more practical and useful subjects will suffer if we approve the instruction of religious education in our schools, I would now like to spend a little time focusing on other reasons for my concern: namely, the exorbitant cost of establishing religious programs, education programs, the cost of extra teachers and teaching material and resources and the increased burden it will place on our taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, you are well aware, and most people are today, of the education costs in Ontario when you pay your tax bill, senior citizens who are paying the exorbitant tax and everyone else. It is of concern to me. That is why I say it belongs in the home and in the community, and I said earlier I certainly have no objections with some minor teaching in the classroom in the morning.

I think this resolution put forward by the member certainly indicates that he wants a study to look into the feasibility of it, but I think that within our school system, within our school communities, the community school boards should be able to determine what they feel is the most important aspect of the teachings which we should be placing upon the students in Ontario.

Mr. Velshi: I do support this resolution, mostly in view of the fact that it is coming from a person who belongs to part of the dominant culture and religion of this province.

I tend to disagree with two items suggested not by the member who is putting this resolution but by the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston). Let's not do away with the little we have in religion I think we always tend to choose the path of least resistance in saying, "Instead of introducing something new, let's do away with what we've got and be nondenominational." I do not agree with that.

In terms of the Lord's Prayer, as a Muslim, and the only Muslim in the House here, I have no problem with reciting the Lord's Prayer. I would hate to see that disappear from the scene. What I would like to see is, let's improve on it and introduce the other cultures and other people to other religions. I think that is more important.

I will support the resolution if that is the intent. If the intent is what the member for Scarborough West has said, I will not support this resolution.

1100

Mr. Allen: First, may I thank all members participating in the debate. I think they have all made very moving and often personal statements which are of consequence. I particularly call the attention of members to the fact that two of the statements have come from school trustees who have great experience in the field and whose statements I would commend to their colleagues as they wrestle with this question around the province. It will be in their hands ultimately to dispose of this question, and they have some good examples here.

May I say to the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) that, yes, the home and the church are the places where religious nurture and the formation of faith take place, must take place, will take place; the school is not the place where that can happen properly and well. I think one has to make that distinction in order to work through this particular problem. But the member is quite right that religious education in the schools will raise further questions that have to be addressed and will be addressed, hopefully, in the homes, churches, synagogues, temples and so on, around the province.

I want to say very briefly to some persons who might be concerned about what happens to their children that I, as an active Protestant seeking bilingual education for my children, sent them to a Catholic separate school, which was French. That was a great adventure and a great experiment in our family life. It was very interesting that they participated in the full range of the religious activities of that school. They were even part of the confirmation process that all the

children took part in. I was delighted to see that they were received.

My youngest son was not able, of course, to complete that process because we are Protestants. Throughout the whole of his schooling, he consistently believed that what we did as a family in our own church was the way it should be done, and that is the way we still do it. But he was asked by his teachers and colleagues if he would play the organ at their confirmation. I think that is the kind of inclusiveness on a multifaith basis that we are looking for in personal ways for our families in the education system, and that is the spirit in which I present this resolution.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. Harris, in the absence of Mr. McCague, moved resolution 29:

That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the Ministry of Health is developing new computer systems for OHIP and recognizing that these systems will keep records for every person receiving health coverage under OHIP and recognizing that the billings under OHIP system are climbing at an alarming rate, the government of Ontario should incorporate in the new system a method of issuing regular statements to subscribers of OHIP in order that they more accurately see the total costs of the health care coverage they receive from the OHIP system.

The Deputy Speaker: The honourable member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation, of which he may reserve any portion for the windup.

Mr. Harris: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not reserve any time. Whatever time remains may be used by other members who wish to comment on the resolution. I thank the House for allowing me to move the resolution on behalf of the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague). The member has been enjoying the use of our health care system for the last couple of days. He is now at home, doing fine, and will be back next week. I think members will be pleased to note that.

However, it was his wish that the resolution go forward in his absence. While I know not nearly as eloquently or nearly as precisely as he may have commented on the resolution, I will attempt in his absence to put forward some of the arguments why the member for Simcoe West thinks this resolution is important and why I too think it deserves the support of the House.

It is very timely for a number of reasons. We are wrestling with utilization in the health care system right now. We find it ironic that the only

area of utilization that the Ministry of Health or the minister or the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) is prepared to comment on at this time is the hospital system. We find that passing strange because when we look at the hospital system and the amount of money that it costs the health care system, there are far greater problems based on utilization or costs escalating very rapidly, or the percentage of the budget that is going towards health care costs. Quite frankly, many of the areas, in our view, are being ignored and the emphasis is being put on the wrong syllable.

The emphasis, we feel, is not going into the areas where the costs appear to be out of control. We do not see health care costs in the hospital system as being out of control. We do not on this side of the House think that there are not problems there that have to be addressed, but we do find it ironic that the main problems and the lack of control, as the Treasurer has indicated, of the open-endedness of the system are not being addressed at this time. So the resolution is very timely because of that.

The resolution is also very timely as noted in the body of the resolution in that we know the Ontario hospital insurance plan's computer system in Kingston is out of date, that there are problems there, that it served its purpose at one time but the time has come when it must be updated or it must be replaced. While the ministry is looking at what kind of computer system could be put into place there, this resolution suggests that that system should allow for what the resolution is calling for, that is, for the users of the system, those who are billing OHIP, to be able to have an accounting of what those services cost regardless of who is paying for them. As we know, at this time it is 100 per cent paid for out of the tax dollars collected either through general taxation or through OHIP premiums.

That is the context and the timing of this resolution, and I think it is timely. It is one of the reasons why the member for Simcoe West felt it was important to go now in those contexts.

I want to give the members a few interesting statistics. I do not want to bore them with statistics, but we are into an area that I think is relevant when we look at trends. In 1977-78, from the health care pie 52 per cent of the money spent went to hospitals and 24 per cent went to OHIP billings. Ten years later, the hospitals get 44 per cent. Eight per cent less is going into the actual hospitals and eight per cent more, 32 per cent, is now coming out of the OHIP billings.

We can see that the percentage of the pie over 10 years that hospitals consume is falling rather dramatically, particularly in relation to the OHIP billings, which have gone from 24 per cent to 32 per cent. It is that 32 per cent that this resolution addresses, the OHIP billing portion of the health care pie. It is the area that is growing the fastest, whether OHIP is billed for tests and doctors' fees directly or other services that are covered under OHIP. This is the area that is mushrooming the fastest.

What this resolution suggests is that it would be beneficial—and I think it might have been a difficult resolution to implement 10, 15 or 20 years ago—to investigate; that we should look at this computer system. In my view, seeing the sophistication of computer systems, this ought not to cost any more than putting in a system. We are saying to make sure it is adaptable to that.

1110

It gives rise, of course, to all kinds of variation. One of the principles is that if people know what it costs the system every time they go to the doctor—the doctor orders two or three tests, and they have to go the hospital for a laboratory test and they have to go back to the doctor—they will have a better appreciation of how their tax dollars are being spent.

It may be that there are some things where one's viewpoint is: "Well, the government is going to spend the money anyway. I might as well be double-extra certain, cautious of my own health care, because if I don't use the system, somebody else will." Or "They're going to spend this money in any event." The other expectation is: "Well, the money is free. It's there. The system is sitting there just waiting for me to come in."

Of course, one of those appears to be true of this government. We would like to think the first one is not true, that in fact if funds are not necessary in a certain area, the government will not figure out a way to spend them. That has not been the case for three years, but we think that with the effective opposition we have been putting up on spending being out of control, the government is going to change. If it wants to get re-elected, it will; if it does not, then another government will have to change it.

The second one, though, is a fallacy that many believe, that the system costs this amount of money "whether I use it or not." That, of course, is not true, because the system is based on utilization. Most of the costs are based on that. So we think that by getting a billing for the use of the services, people will have better apprecia-

tion. If that is coupled with some government control on expenditures and government control on itself, we think that will lead to far greater efficiencies in the system.

How would it work? I do not know. This resolution does not say it has to work this way or it has to work that way. Obviously, we would be calling for the most efficient way for it to work while the computer is being put into place, but it may be that quarterly billing or a quarterly notice goes out to users of OHIP. I do not think that would be particularly difficult to do.

But a lot of other things could come into play, and I think the government should look at what options may be there. I am not in a position to know what will work and what will not work. This says: "Will you explore these options? Will you look at other jurisdictions?" We know there are some others that do this. The government should look at what is working for them and what is not working for them and see if it will work for us here in Ontario.

There are a number of other things, in my view. I would now like to acknowledge to the member for Simcoe West that I am putting forth a few of my own views. There are a number of other things that I think could be considered at the same time. One of them is that instead of issuing everybody a number, we issue them a credit card. When they take that card to the doctor, the doctor has to run that through, write the charge on it and sign it, and the patient signs it. That is what the doctor submits to OHIP to be reimbursed with. I think we should look at that.

That, then, would not necessitate a billing or any extra cost on behalf of OHIP to notify the patient. He would know right then and there. Any other service is done that way, whether the individual pays for it, his company pays for it or, in this case, the government pays for it. I do not know any other system where somebody can send in bills without the actual user knowing.

The computer in Kingston does not know who used the system, and the way the system operates now, the patient does not know either. I think patients might be shocked to learn sometimes when they go to the doctor that there is \$15 here, there is another \$32 for a test and there is another \$45 for a test. I think we should know that.

I do not want members to construe anything I say as being critical of the medical profession, but there is a suspicion that some doctors are sending in more billings than the actual services they perform. Whether it is true in one case or a million cases does not matter. The suspicion is there because we do not know, the government

does not know, OHIP does not know, the public does not know, nobody knows. There is no control mechanism, and that is what usually leads to suspicions.

Members have all probably heard the story that goes around. I do not know where these stories start, but we hear there is some doctor somewhere in some home for the aged who goes through, walks up and down the halls, just says "Hi, Mary" and "Hi, Jack," waves at them all—"How are you feeling today?" "Fine." "Isn't that good?"—and thirty chits go in. I am not accusing anybody of that, but I am telling members that they have all heard the stories. I am also telling members that they do not know whether that can happen or not.

They have to send people an OHIP number anyway. When they get their new computer in, I assume we will all get new numbers. Why do they not send us a number on a card? Then, whenever the system is used, when we go to the hospital—and most of us now have hospital cards anyway that they give us, that they run through with our number on it—they would run our card through and they would have to tell us what it is the system costs. I think there is a lot of sense in that and I am suggesting that this resolution would allow the government to look at that possibility as well.

There are a number of people who are suggesting that another way to control utilization is through user fees. I do not know whether that is right or wrong or whether that is what Ontario wants or not, but I know we do not have a system in place to accommodate that.

For example, everybody has a credit card, so you sign the chits and the doctor sends them in. Now you know what the doctor is sending in. People with an income of \$40,000 or over, for example, could pay \$5 every time they use the system, to a ceiling of, say, \$100. If it could be shown that in fact that does help to control costs and that only those people earning \$40,000 or more would want to go with that option, if it could be shown that could cost them \$100 a year—it could cost them nothing but, for sure, if they do not do it, it costs them \$200 in taxes—people at that income level might say, "This makes sense to me." I know that is a dirty word for a lot of people.

We have the Premier's Council on Health Strategy studying utilization and various health committees that are all looking at it now. In my view, I do not think any stone should be left unturned as we look for ways to deliver services

in a more efficient and upfront way, in a way that everybody understands.

Those are some things that I am not saying are right; I am saying they should be looked at. I am saying that as the member for Nipissing, not as the member for Simcoe West. This resolution allows the government to take a look at a whole host and a whole range of options at that end.

Let me give members a few other statistics. I said the OHIP payments had risen from 24 per cent to 32 per cent. On February 18, 1988, the Ontario Nurses' Association told the press that one of the reasons for increased OHIP billings has been the increase in after-hours surgery. After-hours surgery rose by 20 per cent between 1986 and 1987. OHIP pays 30 per cent more than usual for surgery performed between 5 p.m. and 12 p.m. and 50 per cent more between 12 p.m. and 7 a.m.

If we are doing nonemergency surgery during those times, we should be taking a look at the utilization of our system at that end. Keeping a record of the billings and knowing when things take place might provide surprising figures to hospitals, doctors and patients. This type of tracking system that we are talking about helps you look at those types of things.

Both doctors and the ministry blame the increase in after-hours surgery on the increase in demand for surgery. Are we being penny wise and pound foolish by saying no to more operating rooms? At the same time, operating rooms are being used perhaps more around the clock. Is that costing us more? If every operation is 50 per cent more, perhaps it is. I think we should be looking at some of those things.

1120

I have mentioned that the OHIP computer is obviously having problems; that it was installed in the early 1970s and those of you who keep track of computers realize what can occur. I had one installed in my office last year, and now the Board of Internal Economy tells me it is out of date and it should be something different. This seems to be happening to those who rely on computers; whether it be accountants particularly, they seem to be replacing the things every year. I do not think there is any question it is out of date and has to be looked at. Perhaps now is the time to look at a system whereby, if it can be done at a reasonable cost—and in my view I do not see why it cannot be done at no extra cost—it may, in fact, save a significant amount of money.

I want to mention a couple of other things. There were some quotes from this government when it banned extra billing. I am not suggesting

that we go back to extra billing. I think the government has taken a direction and the public has responded to that direction. Among the things the government said was: "Federal funds withheld from Ontario amount to \$53 million. These penalties will be enough to build a 300-bed acute care hospital." Since the government has done that, it has cancelled plans to build an acute care hospital in North Bay, of fewer beds than that. So, obviously, that is not where the money went even though the government said it could do that.

It could pay the cost of running five perinatal clinics for high-risk infants. Those are being cut back. We know it and we have seen in the headlines where children now are being flown to the United States because we cannot handle them.

I cannot think of one physician who would pass up a chance to have these needed health care facilities. Right; \$53 million per year will go a long way towards helping us address these problems.

This resolution is dealing with utilization in that system. What happened to the \$53 million per year? The billings went up half a billion dollars. The government saved \$53 million and they went up a half a billion dollars—not a total half a billion; half a billion more than the government budgeted for. The Treasurer is the guy who says, "A budget is a budget is a budget." That is what he tells the hospitals. But what does he do to himself? He has been over budget billions of dollars in the last three years.

These are utilization problems and I think it is fair that it be pointed out to the government that we do have problems there. We understand the government is concerned about them and we understand it is setting up a committee to look at them. I have mentioned some of the things that have happened since the government has taken office. In my view, this resolution is an attempt to help address the overall health care cost. I think it would be very beneficial for all members to support it.

Mr. Fleet: I am pleased to rise today to support this resolution and to encourage all of my colleagues to support it as well. I would like to congratulate in particular the honourable member for Simcoe West, who unfortunately is not able to be with us today, as well as the honourable member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris).

I think the most important aspect of this resolution is an acknowledgement that the people of Ontario deserve to know how public moneys are being spent. They also deserve to know how

much it costs for the services that they use. The resolution suggests a means of doing that. I think its benefit is primarily that of an educational tool.

Approximately a third of the provincial budget is spent on health care. There is no doubt that hospital costs and medical costs generally are rising very dramatically. The average cost for a stay in a hospital varies across the province according to what is required for an individual, but it is something in the order of \$200 to \$500 a day, which is certainly a sum that most individuals could not afford to pay for directly themselves.

The honourable member for Simcoe West and his colleague are interested in educating people. I think that is highly desirable, but I do pose the question: What exactly is it that people would be educated about if this proposal were accepted by the government?

There are two possible benefits, I would submit. I suppose one is that people will be struck by the extreme costs and therefore use the health care system less. The second option is that people will be more sensitive to what those costs are and perhaps appreciate more carefully the relationship between taxes and the health care services that are provided.

In short, it would be a situation where a better environment would be more likely to occur for intelligent discussion and ultimately better decision-making about health care services and expenditures, and that environment potentially would be improved at all levels, not simply at the level of the provincial government, but also at the level of the district health councils, individual hospitals and individual decisions made by doctors and patients. I believe the second result is far more likely to occur.

With a few exceptions, I suppose, I doubt very much if people would go less frequently to a doctor or to a hospital as a result of some system of giving them notices. I do not believe that people for the most part abuse the health care system, certainly not on a conscious basis and, generally speaking, I would say not on any basis at all. Those people who might be considered by some to be abusers, I suspect would not likely be deterred anyway. There may be any number of reasons why they may go and seek out health services more than, objectively, might be desirable.

I think we also have to bear in mind that it is not just a question of knowing about the costs that automatically is going to control the rise in the costs. Rising health care service costs are a result of a number of fairly complicated factors, not the

least of which is that we now have an increasing ability to deal with health care problems that we did not have in the past. Really, that whole debate is certainly one that goes beyond the scope of the resolution that is before us today.

I would also like to add, because it was brought up in the speech of the previous speaker, that deterrent fees, also known as user fees, are not in my view desirable at all, particularly in the case of what we would loosely describe as the working poor, people who do work, and probably also the middle class, particularly families, for whom even a small fee may serve as a deterrent to going for proper health care. That is not the objective of the system currently, that is not the objective of this government, and I do not think that is the objective of the proposal, although it was referred to, as I say, by the previous speaker.

Now without withdrawing any of my support for the proposal, I think it is fair to note there may be other ways to accomplish the same goal that may be more effective. I understand there are hospitals now that provide information to people who have attended at the hospital to inform them about the costs that are involved. That may be a more efficient way of alerting people to the costs in a way that does not drive up administrative expenses.

There was a comment made by the member for Nipissing that I thought was quite interesting. He suggested that perhaps a bill be signed by the individual before being sent to the Ontario health insurance plan. That strikes me as something that might be quite efficient to do, and if it is efficient to do, I would certainly encourage the Ministry of Health to take a close look at that.

1130

But there are other problems in terms of providing this information. The first one is the question of confidentiality. The second one is the administrative cost of preparing information and then mailing it out, even with a new computer. The third one is a question of accuracy. That really goes to the heart of the inadequacies of the existing computer system. The auditor has reported on this and I would like to deal with some of the comments that he made to try to explain the problems that are encountered.

"Participant's identification on an incoming claim is compared to participant's identification previously recorded. A match condition results when the first name, sex and birth data agree. Where, however, a match does not occur, a new participant is created. Submission of inaccurate or differing information by the provider of the

service can, therefore, result in a participant being recorded more than once." When one keeps in mind that there are some 81 million claims per year, one can understand quite quickly how even the most minor differentiation in the data produces a very difficult problem in terms of data entry and then producing the results.

This is a notion that I put forward on behalf of myself. It may be that the solution is not to provide individualized responses about expenses in terms of if you have gone to the doctor, what does it cost you for that particular trip, but rather to provide standardized information about the average trip to a doctor in that area, or the average stay in a hospital or for perhaps that type of service. That may be far more efficient in terms of the production of information to inform people and it would still achieve the goal involved.

One of the things that I think is also notable for all members of this House and for the public is the prompt action that has taken place with the Ministry of Health and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan). On November 18, 1987, she sent a letter to all district health councils requesting their input to assess a possible new system that would be called the unique personal identifier system. That new system would involve, potentially, a new registration number for every individual in Ontario, either assigned at birth or at the institution of the system, if it were brought in, or when somebody would be emigrating into Ontario.

The kind of data that they would require would be date of birth, the sex of the individual and an address, something so that they have a better system of matching up. I would point out that there are some technical problems with this because there is a right of privacy for every individual and there is a personal right of access to information about an individual. That has to be preserved and, of course, that is inherent in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and one of the principles of this government.

Secondly, there was a report in mid-February of this year to a legislative committee about the status of this. I understand there is a submission now being made to Management Board and this is something being actively considered although it is still in the discussion stage.

In summation, I would again urge all members to support this proposal. Again, I congratulate the member for Simcoe West. I think we do have to look for innovative ways to address the question of costs. I do not think we want to

sacrifice any important services in the health care area and, therefore, we need a well-planned system to be an efficient system. That is exactly what the Minister of Health is endeavouring to do and is doing currently. I again urge all members to support this resolution.

Mr. Reville: It is a pleasure to join with colleagues such as the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Fleet) and the member for Nipissing in support of the resolution from the member for Simcoe West. I am pleased to share with the House the information that the member for Simcoe West will be back with us shortly. I am pleased to hear that the health care system seems to have come through for him.

A number of the recognitions in the resolution have been commented on by the member for High Park-Swansea and the member for Nipissing. There is no question that a new computer system for OHIP would be a good idea. I think it is somewhat bizarre that there are around 26 million names in the system in Ontario, particularly in view of the fact that there are somewhat fewer than 10 million people in the province. I think it is high time we reduced the number of hysterectomies performed on men. Correcting the OHIP computer system would have some beneficial effect thereon.

I also understand that large swarms of computer fixers are required just to keep that system from collapsing and sighing totally. I understand as well that there is a man in a kind of closet there in the OHIP centre in Kingston with an eyeshade, arm-suspenders and a kind of quill-pen on a chair. He is not somehow connected to the computer, but he sends a bill to Ottawa every now and then for about \$4 billion. He is sort of scribing this away with his quill-pen. It is lucky we have him there.

The other recognition the member for Simcoe West draws our attention to is particularly important. He says billings under OHIP are climbing at an alarming rate. That, actually, is somewhat understated. It is a rare occasion when a politician actually understates things. I think the member for Nipissing referred to some of the numbers. They really are dramatic.

The increase, 1982-83 over 1988-89, is 117.8 per cent. That is a huge amount. That makes me want to say yet again that the government's gimlet eye on the increase in expenditure on hospital and related facilities perhaps misses the point when we are looking at significantly more increases in the amount of transfer payments for services provided by physicians and practitioners.

The reservation I have about the resolution of the member for Simcoe West, although it does not appear in the words of the resolution, is that there is a tiny implication that patients may somehow be to blame for the increased utilization of doctors. I have a suspicion about what we will shortly hear if the Scott task force reports to us on an interim basis. Perhaps it will not report to us for many years; I do not know.

The Scott task force, members of the Legislature will recall, is the task force set up by the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) under the chairmanship of the former Deputy Minister of Health. It is said to be a co-operative venture, another one of these famous co-operative ventures undertaken by the Minister of Health, in which the Ontario Medical Association and a number of health bureaucrats will sit down and scratch their heads about why it is that OHIP transfer payments have increased so dramatically.

I fear that one of the first things we will hear from that task force is that the problem is patient utilization. If anyone is not familiar with that jargon, it means consumers are demanding services from doctors they should not have but that doctors have no choice but to deliver, which I think is an absurd proposition.

Perhaps in advance support of such a claim, I was speaking with a doctor from the OMA last evening, who told me three of the patients she had seen that day had come to her office because they had seen something on television about a new treatment and dropped in to have an appointment with the doctor to check it out. Whether that happens on a regular basis, I do not know.

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Interjection.

Mr. Reville: My colleague from the riding I call Windsor-Riverdale but which is really Windsor-Riverside (Mr. D. S. Cooke), an excellent former Health critic, reminds me sotto voce that there is a huge increase in the amount of the second flavour of utilization, which is the utilization of drugs. The first flavour is utilization of doctors; the second flavour is utilization of drugs.

He is quite right, of course. There is an even more dramatic increase in the drug benefit plan. That has gone up, 1982-83 over 1988-89, by 168.9 per cent, which is a gigantic increase. Of course, the physicians are somewhat involved in that as well because they are the only people who are allowed to write out one of those little bits of paper that one gets to take off to the pharmacy,

and at that point the pharmacy takes a hit and then sends a very large amount of money to a pharmaceutical company.

If anyone is interested, in the 1987-88 in-year changes, that is the amount by which the Treasurer underestimated the expenditure, the winner is OHIP, which is the payments to doctors. That was \$198 million more than was budgeted; not far behind the Ontario drug benefit plan, overspent by \$52 million.

I was quite taken with the approach suggested by the member for Nipissing that, rather than sending statements to subscribers, if the system were to be implemented, one would get a credit card slip when one got the service. That has some advantages, at least from my point of view. One is concern that if statements were sent to users of the system, there might be included in those statements procedures that a person would be just as happy if other persons in their household or perhaps the holder of the card did not know about. One can think of, for those of the members who are fortunate enough to have teenage daughters, perhaps they were getting birth control pills from the family physician and did not want to tell dad or mom about that. Then the method of giving that patient a receipt at the point of service would be more appropriate than sending a letter to me saying my daughter had just been at the doctor's getting birth control pills. I want members to know I discussed the matter with my daughter and we were all agreed that she had made an appropriate decision in that regard.

The member for Nipissing said we should leave no stone unturned in trying to determine the reason for costs in our health care system. I do not disagree with that. I think we should always be careful, though, that when we are turning stones none of them falls on the patients in Ontario.

With that, I shall conclude.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am very pleased to have the opportunity to support the resolution of my colleague the member for Simcoe West.

I would like to emphasize the importance of the resolution in my mind. I will just read it: "That, in the opinion of this House, recognizing that the Ministry of Health is developing new computer systems for OHIP, the government of Ontario should incorporate in the new system a method of issuing regular statements to subscribers of OHIP in order that they may more accurately see the total costs of the health care coverage they receive from the OHIP system."

I think it is most important that people are aware of the costs. It simply means that the resolution encourages government to make the public more aware of the tremendous escalating costs of our health care system. It is unfortunate that the member for Simcoe West, who put so much work into this resolution, could not be with us today and indeed ended up in the hospital because of all his efforts in trying to bring in an excellent resolution. I am sure the members will appreciate that. It is unfortunate he is not here, but it is very fortunate he has recovered and will be with us next week.

In any event, while he was in the hospital, I think he likely checked out the costs of the health care system while he was there. Knowing the tremendous work he does, I believe he will have all the facts for us next week. He never quits working. I might mention that while the member for Simcoe West was Chairman of Management Board he was always vitally concerned about the costs of the ministry and kept a close control. Indeed, I suggest that the government could do much worse than to engage the member for Simcoe West in assisting it to control its expenditures.

By coincidence, I spoke on this very topic of making the public more aware of the rapidly escalating costs of our health care system during the budget debate on May 9. Since most of the members never pay any attention to the budget debate, I would like to just mention a couple of the comments I made on that particular day. I said:

"There is a misconception about health care. Many members of the public think that Ontario has a free health care system. This budget drives home the point that health care is far from free. The Ministry of Health will spend \$12.7 billion on health care this year, an increase of \$1.2 billion over last year. This represents spending of approximately \$1,350 for every man, woman and child in this province. If we paid our health care costs directly instead of through taxation, it would cost my daughter's family of five \$6,750 this year, and likely more next year and in the future."

My question was, "Why does the Ministry of Health not make people aware of the tremendous costs in our health care system?"

I go on once more to offer "my very positive and constructive advice as to a partial solution to the soaring health care costs in this province," and I make the suggestion that we "make the users of health care knowledgeable about the costs of being confined in a hospital or having an

appointment with the doctor. A simple mechanism could be put in place. A patient, on checking out of a hospital or on visiting a doctor, would receive a statement similar to Visa or MasterCard, stating the amount of the billing. The patient would sign the same and receive a statement. It would not cost the patient anything, but would impress on that taxpayer that health care is not free."

Does any member of this Legislature know the cost of staying in a hospital? Is it \$200, \$300, \$500 or a \$1,000 a day? I think people would be encouraged to try to be more considerate of their needs if they realized the tremendous costs involved. It makes sense to follow the advice of the member for Simcoe West to incorporate a system to make the public more knowledgeable about their individual costs to the health care system.

In a recent issue of a Ministry of Municipal Affairs publication, under "Notes from the Provinces," it states that Saskatchewan was to introduce computerized health cards. It says: "Health Minister George McLeod has announced that the government is planning to introduce a computer-readable plastic health card. Mr. McLeod said, 'A computerized system also offers the potential for more effective monitoring of prescription drug abuse and greater access to information in emergency medical situations.' He goes on to say, 'It will also bring efficiency that will help reduce overall costs in the health care system.'"

That, I think, is what we would all hope to achieve. I might mention that we should be aware that health costs have increased dramatically over the last four years. Four years ago, it cost the average Ontario citizen \$884—at least it cost the government \$884 for this citizen. The cost today is now over \$1,247, compared with the national average increase to \$1,191 from \$927 during the same period of time. Surely we would all agree that we cannot allow this trend to continue. If we keep adding more to this health system, we cannot do the many things that we have to do.

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On a personal basis, I would like to give one example concerning a constituent of mine in the riding of Wellington. On Tuesday, May 10, I brought to the attention of this House, through a member's statement, the problem that David Elgie, who lives in the town of Fergus, has. He requires surgery to replace an artificial hip joint. It is worn and broken. It was implanted several years ago and it now has to be replaced.

He consulted with his doctor, Dr. Hugh Cameron, at the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital on Wellesley Street. Members know the results of that because they were well documented last week. They cannot provide any surgical operations to replace hip joints and they advised Mr. Elgie that it would be one year; he must wait until April 4, 1989.

It is rather unacceptable to wait that long, but what really added to the problem is that he was advised just a few days ago that they have now changed the date and, instead of moving it up, have moved it back. David Elgie will now have an opportunity to have his surgery on June 12, 1990. That is two full years of suffering, and the possibility of infection and of having to use crutches. This in the finest health care system in the world?

We now have a government with three ministers who should be concerned about this issue. We are talking about a disabled senior citizen, so I would suggest the Minister of Health, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson) and the Minister without Portfolio responsible for disabled persons (Mr. Mancini) should all be concerned about issues such as the one I have brought to members' attention.

Quite frankly, David Elgie is placed in a very difficult position. He cannot tolerate the unbearable pain of his deteriorating artificial joints, which were implanted, as I mentioned, several years ago. He needs an operation and he needs it now, not two years from now.

He has asked me a question and I do not know how to answer him. He has asked me if he should make arrangements in the United States for his operation. He feels that our Ontario health care system has failed him and he must seek an operation out of this country.

I have been terribly disappointed that the government would allow this to happen when all the arthritic hospital needs is \$1.6 million to be able to obtain the artificial joints it requires. The government, through its banning of extra billing by Bill 94, achieved a so-called saving of \$50 million. Surely some of this \$50 million could be directed into helping to keep David Elgie in Ontario, instead of forcing him to go to the United States to solve his problem.

Mr. Keyes: It is a pleasure to rise today and to speak on this particular resolution. I regret that the member for Simcoe West is not here with us so he could see that there is government support for his motion. We do know that he is investigating at first hand the health care system,

the finest in the world, and will be returning to us tomorrow. He will have great comments to make, I am sure, about the care he received.

Perhaps he might even ask a special favour to endorse his resolution. Who knows, maybe part of his plan is to actually bring back the bill from the hospital, which will give the value of the services he has received while he was there. But at the end of his bill, where it says "balance owing," he will see these great big zeros, indicating that this health care system is the best: he does not have to worry about payment at the hospital before he leaves.

My regret that the member for Nipissing is not here is the fact that in speaking on behalf of the resolution, he is endorsing the government initiatives but at the same time, while he may not want to have his remarks taken that way, he was acknowledging that the former government certainly did not keep up with its computer systems in order to meet the needs of the health care system.

I want to assure the House that within the Ministry of Health we are looking very closely at this particular issue, because the initial planning for the redesign of the Ontario health insurance plan computer has been completed. Improvements in technology available to us today make it possible to modernize and update the current OHIP system. It will be possible to have a registration system with strengthened security to prevent and protect individual privacy and confidentiality while providing improved access to personal health information.

Members have heard the minister say many times—they will hear it again today—that we need a well-planned and well-managed system. While it seems to bring forth some sighs, they seem not to understand that is what we are doing, even in this particular field. With our redevelopment of the computer system, we will have an integrated health information-data records system that will provide a very reliable basis for the analysis, planning and management of the health care system.

We heard reference today to a credit card system, which gives us some concern, but certainly we intend to issue a personal identifier number for health purposes on a card for every resident of Ontario. It could very well be in the same format as what we receive for identification purposes in the House at the present time.

We know that money is being put towards it. While the member for Nipissing was concerned about the extra money collected by the Treasurer, he should also be aware that 40 per cent of every

new dollar collected in this province goes towards the health care system.

We know that the auditor said we should improve our system. The member for High Park-Swansea referred to the fact that we have some 81 million claims a year that are processed, we make payments out to some 20,000 physicians, and that amounts to in excess of \$3 billion for those claims.

The system that we have is the most complex system in the government of Ontario today. It was designed, however, some 20 years ago. It needs to be updated. Over the years, it has undergone numerous changes and enhancements, but much more needs to be done. That is what is in the planning at the moment, which will certainly cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$50 million.

The whole focus of providing additional knowledge base and database on which to plan our system stems from the work of the Evans, Spasoff and Podborski reports. I trust that all members have spent some time, particularly looking at the Evans report which has given us some of the concerns of the health care system which are being addressed.

Mr. Wildman: I read it every time I want to get to sleep at night.

Mr. Keyes: I am sure the member takes it to bed with him, and maybe someone reads it to him.

Within that system, "the provision of rights should be linked to the acceptance of" patients' "responsibilities. In our universally accessible health care system, individuals should accept their responsibilities to use our health care system appropriately." Further in the report, Evans makes reference to the fact that the "consumers of health care services are increasingly interested in being better informed and in participating in decisions affecting their health." But at the moment there are "relatively few tangible and acceptable measures by which patients' rights could be balanced with patients' responsibilities for judicious use of services and for sharing the general problem of reasonable cost control."

In conclusion, the OHIP system is being redesigned in order to provide more comprehensive information for planning purposes in the future to ensure that patient providers and community health planners have an improved information planning base in the future. The Ministry of Health looks forward to receiving ideas from the providers of health care, from the district health councils and others on the types of

general information that might be made available in order that both the public and the providers are better informed of the most cost-effective approaches to ensure quality health care systems.

We do have some institutions that provide the information as to what services have cost as a patient leaves, but they also indicate that there is no balance owing. Perhaps if we provide information on the costs, we should also provide information on how much they contributed through their OHIP premiums, which would be about 18 per cent.

This resolution is simply one of the approaches that we in the ministry are giving considerable consideration to in recognizing the importance of ensuring that the confidentiality of patient medical information is completely protected. We in the government will support this resolution of the member for Simcoe West, who I am sure will report back to us next week on the excellent health care he has received.

Mr. Allen: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I believe this would be an appropriate way of calling your attention to the fact that in reading the text of my motion, an awkward portion rang in my ears that I did not quite catch at the time, but the word "in" in the fourth line should read

"and." It does not substantially change the burden of the motion, but it is a typographical error that should be corrected.

Mr. Speaker: I am certain all members have made note of that change, unless we need another debate on it.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Allen has moved resolution 27.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Allen: May I request unanimous consent of the House to have this referred to the select committee on education?

Mr. Speaker: Is that agreed?

Agreed to.

Resolution ordered for the select committee on education.

ONTARIO HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Harris, in the absence of Mr. McCague, has moved resolution 29.

Motion agreed to.

The House recessed at 12:03 p.m.

AFTERNOON SITTING

The House resumed at 1:30 p.m.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

Ms. Bryden: Many judges today are imposing community service orders when sentencing young offenders. CSOs must be administered by an agency which seeks work assignments for the young offenders and supervises them with a view to their rehabilitation into the community.

Community Centre 55 in my riding sponsors a CSO operation which has built up a reputation over several years for providing young offenders with innovative rehabilitation programs. It has been funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

At this time, the operation is in jeopardy because the current grants from the ministry do not cover the costs of two full-time staff members, which is the bare minimum to operate an adequate program. It would be a disaster if this CSO program was discontinued when an experienced agency is needed for the current case load of 170 young people, plus a possible increase due to the new alternative measures program of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) for young offenders.

I urge the minister to review funding for all CSO operations in the province to see that they are able to meet the need adequately and help our young offenders to become law-abiding, self-supporting members of our society.

D & E WOOD INDUSTRIES LTD.

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, yesterday when you, the pages and the staff were trying to bring some dignity to this assembly, I was touring a combiboard plant in my riding of Hastings-Peterborough. This was a progress tour of the plant, which is located in Herschel township just outside of Bancroft. The plans are for this to be completed in four to five months, which will certainly be a boon to the area.

Both the federal and provincial governments gave equal amounts of money, \$6.75 million in interest-free loans, and I would like to thank the taxpayers of Canada and Ontario for their assistance to my riding. The municipal council and the economic development committee of the area also worked hard.

However, 70 per cent of the financial burden of this falls on the shoulders of D & E Wood

Industries Ltd., along with the full responsibility of bringing the plant into production. I would like to pay tribute to the owners of the plant, the consulting engineers and the construction workers for their efforts thus far and hope that they complete this plant within the scheduled time frame.

TRAILMOBILE GROUP OF COMPANIES LTD.

Mr. Neumann: I would like to share with the House part of a resolution recently passed by Local 397 of the Canadian Auto Workers in Brantford.

"Whereas the 13 per cent unemployed community has suffered enough by the Mulroney government's lack of compassion for Brantford workers; and

"Whereas the federal government's Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs' recent decision in making Trailmobile divest itself of the van assembly line and rejecting Trailmobile's request to withdraw the requirement that forces it to sell this line in exchange for approval to purchase Fruehauf Canada; and

"Whereas this community has lobbied for and supported the request by Trailmobile through a number of parties, including all levels of government in opposition, the trade union movement and some of the largest buyers of this company's products;

"Therefore be it resolved that this chapter of the Canadian Auto Workers' retiree's council condemns the recent decision by the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to block this merger; and

"Be it further resolved that this chapter calls on the federal government to order the bureau of competition to rescind its decision by allowing Trailmobile to buy Fruehauf, thus enabling Trailmobile to remain competitive and thereby protecting the 300 families supporting Brantford incomes that are most certainly threatened by the current requirement."

Our federal government, while promoting the free trade agreement with the United States, severely penalizes Canadian-owned industry which attempts to prepare for this challenge through consolidation. I urge them to reconsider this ill-conceived decision.

FRANCOPHONE COLLEGES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to implore the government to consider the establishment of

francophone colleges in Ontario. Last March, the minister at the time suggested a five-year plan of expansion of dollars to bilingual and francophone programs would be brought into place. Two task forces were announced, supposedly to report in time for this April's budget, which we did not see.

Direction jeunesse has asked for three francophone colleges in the province. Fédération des élèves du secondaire franco-ontarien has done the same, as has l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, and the Conseil de l'éducation franco-ontarien in March also had a consensus regarding this.

Members of the Liberal caucus will know that their own conference recently in Ottawa passed a motion supporting a francophone college in eastern Ontario.

I would say it is time for this to take place. At the same time as we wait for this to happen, we are seeing that Niagara College and Sheridan College are actually cutting back on programs for francophones, of which there is a dearth in southwestern Ontario. It is really time the cabinet and the Liberal government of Ontario finally put some community colleges under the direction of the French community to run on their own for their own students, so that finally those students will get the same kind of education that anglophone students have expected as a right in Ontario.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. McLean: My statement is for the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Patten), but it actually applies to most of the government ministers. This government's shoddy record and arrogant attitude about responding to inquiries in Orders and Notices continues.

I asked the minister on December 15, 1987—and that was so long ago now that he may have forgotten about it—to provide the costs for the new furniture and television sets for the offices of all ministers, their staff, and all members of the Legislature since June 1985.

His interim answer, dated December 29, 1987, in case he has forgotten—it is such a long time ago—was, "The ministry requires additional time to provide the information required by the question. The answer should be available on or about February 29, 1988."

It is now May 19, 1988, and I still do not have a reply to the original question I asked five months ago. If the minister's strategy is to offend me by not providing this information, his strategy is not working. If his strategy is to anger

me, his strategy is not working. But if his strategy is to keep this information from the public, then I must say his strategy is certainly working very well. But there is a serious flaw in his strategy and that is the fact that the people of Ontario have a right to know how this government is spending taxpayers' money at a time when it has plucked \$1.3 billion from their purses and their wallets. It is shameful and disgusting.

ONTARIO FOOD

Mr. Dietsch: Since my election, I have been consulting with members over the use of Ontario food products here in the Legislature and have received a favourable response. I have recently received a survey circulated by the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly which asks questions concerning the legislative dining room and cafeteria. It is my feeling that Ontario boasts countless Ontario food products of excellent quality: wines, fruit juices, fruits, vegetables and cheese, for example. We, as members, should be supportive of this industry.

I believe strongly that Ontario wines and juices should be used exclusively at all Legislative Assembly and government functions, as well as listed exclusively on the wine list and menu in the legislative dining room. The same applies to fruit juices being served in the cafeteria.

Second, Ontario food products such as fruits and vegetables should be used exclusively, served within the cafeteria, legislative dining room and all other functions, when in season.

Third, the menu used in the legislative dining room should feature the Foodland Ontario symbol beside each menu item that boasts Ontario food products and establish a county or region day whereby different food products from different counties or regions would be featured each week.

I urge all members, if they have not already done so, to complete these questionnaires and incorporate these ideas, or if they have already done so, to send a letter of support and show by example for all to see that good things do grow in Ontario.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Farnan: The development industry is responding to the call of the Premier (Mr. Peterson) for a world-class Ontario. The Premier will be pleased to hear that the development industry is building a world-class community in Oakville. This advertisement from last Saturday's Star has homes for \$309,000. It is

interesting to note that this requires a simple down payment of \$46,500 and an annual income of over \$100,000.

This is a tragedy, when we read the housing sections of newspaper and we find an overabundance of world-class living accommodation, while for ordinary Ontario families a much more modest, affordable home is still unavailable. Surely the Premier and this government must get their priorities right. Affordable housing is what is needed, and not world-class living.

VISITOR

Mr. Speaker: Before we go on with the routine proceedings, I ask all members of the assembly to join with me in recognizing in the Speaker's gallery a member of the National Assembly of Quebec, the Minister of Municipal Affairs responsible for housing, the Honourable André Bourbeau.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CORPORATIONS INCOME TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENT

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I advised members on November 18, 1987, that I would seek further advice concerning the feasibility of a corporations income tax collection agreement with the federal government. I have now received the report by Professor Harry Kitchen of Trent University, and I now table it in the Legislature.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Did Harry do that? Good man.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We paid him for it; a very good report.

Mr. Speaker: Any responses?

Mr. B. Rae: I thought I would read the report before making a reply to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

RESPONSE

CORPORATIONS INCOME TAX COLLECTION AGREEMENT

Mr. Harris: In view of the fact that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has not read the report yet and is not prepared to comment on it, it is very difficult for us to comment, other than to perhaps—

Hon. Mr. Elston: That never stopped you before.

Mr. B. Rae: Oh, he's got five minutes.

Mr. Callahan: It gives you greater latitude.

Mr. Harris: I have not said anything wrong so far. There are some who say that members of the

opposition, in performing their critical role of being in opposition and criticizing, never have anything nice to say. We on this side of the House have been very critical, particularly in the area of reports that are commissioned, paid for by taxpayers—I am going to be a while now; I think I will do up my jacket and try to do this right—and then hidden from the public domain, hidden from the eyes of the media, hidden from the Legislature.

We have had example after example of this. A lot of them were reports that were done before the election that did not make the government look quite so good, so they sat on them for two, four, six months, in some cases nine or 10 months. It probably would be appropriate, given that there have been hundreds of examples of this by various ministers, the Office of the Premier and the Treasurer's office in the past, at least to congratulate the Treasurer. He has acknowledged he just received the report. He has not read the doggone thing yet, and he is actually going to table it today without knowing what is in it.

When you look at the terms of reference of the report, it is one of those reports that is not likely to be very controversial as far as anything the government is bungling or hiding or covering up is concerned. None the less, it may be an example for the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and other ministers to follow. When they pay for these reports with public dollars, they should be tabled right away. We should all get an opportunity to look at them at the same time, without the normal vetting they go through in a ministry and a minister's office and, of course, the concealing and hiding of documents from public view.

I think it is fair that, in my own inimitable style, I congratulate the Treasurer on tabling this report today.

ORAL QUESTIONS

APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

Mr. B. Rae: In the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I would like to ask a question to the Deputy Premier. I ask him to cast his mind back to the summer of 1987, in fact to August 31, when, I am sure he will remember, after a cabinet meeting the Minister of Skills Development at that time announced a major program. In fact, the leader of the Liberal Party, and now the Premier, announced a program on August 31, 1987, on the question of apprenticeship, as no doubt the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) will recall some 10 days before the meeting with the voters on September 10, so perhaps we are entitled to look at that date as one having some significance.

Some very specific commitments were made to working families and women with respect to the future of apprenticeship programs.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. B. Rae: In light of that very specific promise made by the Premier, I wonder if the Treasurer can explain why, in a cabinet submission dated April 27, 1988, which is before cabinet, the Ministry of Skills Development would say as follows:

"The Ministry of Skills Development has not been allocated the resources originally requested to implement the initiatives. The ministry wishes to inform cabinet of the implications of that decision, to put forward new options for proceeding and to seek guidance on these options?"

I wonder if the Treasurer can explain why it is that several months after a promise made by the Premier, which was to take effect in January, there is still no such program?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not think it is appropriate that I comment on a cabinet document. Having said that, in general terms I think the honourable member would be aware that there have been instances in the history of the province where commitments made by leaders of governments and even leaders of the opposition are not kept in a timetable that suits everyone, and that there are in fact commitments that sometimes take weeks, even months, before they are fully committed.

Mr. B. Rae: Let me be quite specific. The Premier made some very specific commitments, particularly to women. He announced, first of all, that particular dollars would be spent; they have not been spent. He announced that certain programs would be started; they have not been started. He announced that changes would take effect in apprenticeships for women; that has not happened.

Is the Treasurer aware of the fact that there are three options before cabinet, two of which mean that the province will be breaking the promise that it made on August 31 to the women of this province? The government was committed to 5,000 women training in apprenticeship programs by 1991-92. It now appears that promise is going to be broken very specifically by this government.

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. B. Rae: I ask the Deputy Premier, if it was good enough for an election promise on August 31, 1987, good enough to buy the Liberals votes and get them elected, why is it not good enough for the women of this province

when they are waiting for the government to keep its commitment?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I do not get my blood coursing in response to the instant indignation of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), which he cranks up every day. It does not even seem to make his face flush either. He is getting quite used to it.

I say again, I am not going to comment on a cabinet document. That goes without saying. I am not even going to comment further about it, other than to say that the Premier is highly respected and well known for keeping his commitments in an orderly and fiscally responsible manner. If the Leader of the Opposition says otherwise, the Leader of the Opposition is wrong.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Rather than dealing with that particular document, perhaps the Treasurer will explain to us why it is that none of the \$14 million that was promised for these programs—most of which, as the news release of August 31 says, were to be implemented by January 1988—has been spent and where the government's commitment on apprenticeship has gone?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: It might have been wise for me to refer the whole matter to the Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling), since it is not possible for me to report to the honourable member what the status of any changes in skills development or apprenticeship programs happens to be. Perhaps the honourable member, having pursued it on a different tack in the first two questions in this area, might, when the official opposition goes to its second official question, direct the question to another minister.

1350

HOME CARE

Mr. B. Rae: I have a new question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. The minister will no doubt have been aware of the dialogue that has taken place in this House between our party and other parties and the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan), in which the minister has stated on so many occasions that the reason the government is cutting back on hospitals is that it wants to make sure there is funding for other health care initiatives.

I wonder if the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) perhaps could comment on comments that are now being made by those working in the social service field in the Waterloo region, who have just heard from his ministry that their request for a real home care program in the region that will do a service to the

community has been rejected, that the budget they have proposed to his ministry has been turned down and that, as a result, the administrator of the region's home care program is saying, and I quote: "There might be some people that might have to stay in hospital longer."

I wonder if the minister can explain just what is going on when one minister says, "We are cutting back on hospitals because we want to provide care in the community," and when his ministry is saying, "We are cutting back on care in the community so people are going to have to stay in hospital"?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: The honourable member would be aware of the fact that there has been a significant growth in home care opportunities in a number of communities in the province—18 to be exact. Waterloo region was one of the first in the province to access this growth. The difficulty we are facing is that the growth is greater than we had anticipated.

Over the last two years, we have not only met the original increase, but we have also met the increase above and beyond what these municipalities had asked us for. That is part of the record and easily checked. However, this year, we have indicated to them that there has to be a limit to the amount of the increase, given the resources we have. There is an ongoing discussion between the Minister of Health and my ministry, which I am sure would not surprise the honourable Leader, as to how we can integrate our services to avoid what he described happening.

I expect that some time within the next two months I will be able to share that with the leader of the third party, but right now, the process is ongoing. In fact, it is expanding. There is extra money in it this year, but it is not possible in the short run to expand it as quickly as some of the regions want us to.

Mr. B. Rae: The minister should know that the budget for Waterloo region, which they say is necessary to keep people at home and out of hospital, has been cut by his ministry by some \$3 million. As a result of that cut, they say, and I quote: "These cuts mean the number of nursing visits and homemaker hours per client would be cut down, a waiting list would be imposed and nearly 11 full-time staff positions due to start this year would be eliminated."

Does the minister not realize that what we are getting from this government is gobbledegook, that we have people who are in hospital, who cannot get out of hospital because there is nowhere else for them to go, that we have people at home who are getting sicker and who are

having to go to hospital because there is no care for them at home, and that both he and the Minister of Health are doing the same thing? They are both cutting back, they are making sick people sicker and they are making sure the hospital system is going to be overcrowded. That is what they are doing. That is what the ministry is doing and that is what the chaotic planning on their part is causing.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: To put it mildly, what the honourable leader has just described is an exaggeration of the reality that is out there. As I am sure he genuinely knows and understands, the word "cut" is often used in different ways. In this situation, as in all of our programs, there has been an increase in the resources that are made available. The term "cut" is often used when the amount of the increase is not what someone requests. I can cite for him a number of programs where that happens.

In fact, in Waterloo region, as in many other municipalities in this province, the number of people who are no longer in hospitals but are being serviced in homes has increased every single year since this government has been in office and it will increase again this year. The fact that we are not able to meet every request of every municipality for every program is an inevitable reality of the total resources available to the government as well as to any ministry, but there has not been a cut. There may not have been the increase that was requested—I do not have the exact figures—but I can assure the honourable leader that there was an increase in that budget, as there is in all other budgets of my ministry, to every single agency that my ministry deals with.

Mr. B. Rae: If the government does not meet the needs and it has waiting lists that are growing, it is in a situation that is creating problems for people that are going to be resolved only by more of them having to stay longer in institutions. The minister should know that.

Can the minister comment on the fact that the director of the region's community support services, Greg Sullivan, directly contradicts what the minister is saying with respect to the impact on people. He says, "There are people whose health may deteriorate more rapidly." These are Greg Sullivan's words; they are not my words. He says:

"For example, a client with emphysema, living at home, would have regular visits from a physiotherapist, who would check his condition and teach him exercises to improve his health. If those visits were less frequent, his health could

deteriorate without detection to the point at which he'd have to go to hospital."

That is the impact, on a very human level, on one individual because of what the ministry is doing. Can the minister tell us what his justification is for the Minister of Health saying, "We are going to be doing more in the community," and for his saying, "It would be nice if we could do more in the community, but we do not have the dollars to do so"? When is the minister going to get his act together over there and realize that what he is doing is hurting people?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: By the particular choice of words the honourable leader just used, there were a number—and he can go back and read it himself—of "ifs" and "maybes" in there, and that is true for every single service program certainly that I operate and, I suspect, that my colleague the Minister of Health operates. That is one of the realities of everything we provide.

The point is that far more people in Ontario today and over the last three years have received and are receiving service than were before. We do not have the resources to provide every service to every individual for every request. I will quite frankly admit that, and the honourable leader knows that is the fact, but to say we are keeping people in hospitals when they do not need to be there, that we are driving people into hospitals when they do not need to be there, is not accurate to the same extent it was before. That has changed significantly. But I would certainly point out that the day will not likely come very soon when we can meet every need of every single individual in this province. We simply do not have the resources to do that, particularly when we are being told we are collecting too many—

Mr. Speaker: It seems like a fairly complete answer.

RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL OF OTTAWA

Mr. Sterling: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Yesterday we found out from the Touche Ross report that the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa has been operating with a surplus for the last six years. This last tax year of 1987-88, they have been operating with a \$1.2-million deficit, which the minister refuses to fund. We find from the report that \$900,000 of that deficit is uncontrollable.

One of the five programs that are unfunded and unapproved by the ministry deals with chemotherapy for cancer patients. This cost the Riverside Hospital \$53,000 last year, and the

ministry refuses to fund chemotherapy for these cancer patients.

Is the minister suggesting that the Riverside Hospital in Ottawa should discharge patients who need to receive chemotherapy so that they could try to gain admittance to another hospital in Ottawa, when those other hospitals are very much overcrowded with regard to providing this service? Does the minister want the Riverside Hospital to cut off chemotherapy treatment?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I met recently in Ottawa with all of the hospital board chairmen, and it was a very good meeting. We discussed the fact that not every hospital can be everything to everyone and that they must work together, and the board chairmen assured me they wished to do that.

The figures the member presented in the House yesterday that are in the Touche Ross report include all revenues from all sources, including the bailouts from previous years from the ministry. He is quite correct. There have been identified a number of programs that have not been approved by the ministry. There are a number of programs in the Ottawa area that have gone through the district health council and are waiting approval. What we are saying is that the ministry must approve programs before hospitals offer them. They simply cannot start programs and then give us the bill.

1400

Mr. Sterling: It is a little difficult to be calm when you think of a patient who has undergone bowel surgery and there has been a discovery of cancer during that particular operation and that patient cannot be treated to the fullest extent and receive chemotherapy from that hospital.

I want to bring forward another example with regard to this whole matter. The palliative care unit of the Riverside Hospital has a special program to provide intravenous feeding for patients who cannot feed themselves. The Ministry of Health guidelines, I understand, provide hospitals that have 35 cases or more a year with the funding with regard to this program. Last year the Riverside Hospital had 34 cases, one under the limit.

Mr. Speaker: So the question would be?

Mr. Sterling: They incurred a cost of \$43,000. Does the minister suggest that the Riverside Hospital discharge a patient who needs this kind of intravenous feeding, which is available in other hospitals in Ottawa, just because it falls below a certain magic number?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: What we are doing in the review of some 22 hospitals is trying to determine the root causes of chronic deficits. What we are intending to do is make sure that hospitals are appropriately and fairly funded for the services which have been approved by the ministry. Where we find there are programs the ministry has approved and not adequately resourced, we will do that. Where we find there are opportunities for hospitals to work together and rationalize services, to make most efficient and effective use of resources within a community, we will encourage that.

Riverside is one of those hospitals under review. I am not prepared today to discuss the specific details of any particular program, but the general principle that says you must have approval from the ministry before you start a new program and before you bring on additional staffing is one that I think has common sense and is good planning.

Mr. Sterling: Again, it is very difficult when a patient must go on intravenous feeding to say to the relatives of that particular patient, "We cannot feed this relative because we do not have the appropriate funding from the Ministry of Health."

I want to bring up one more example dealing with the Riverside Hospital. Last year they took on the responsibility of performing 180 autopsy cases for local coroners in the area. This is due to the fact that no other hospital in Ottawa would accept the responsibility for performing those autopsies. This resulted in a net deficit of about \$60,000 for a program unfunded by the minister and her colleague the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith). This hospital, if it is to live within its budget by May 28, as the minister defined it must, must cut off this service. They will have to cease performing—

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Sterling: —autopsies by June 30 if the minister or the Solicitor General does not give them funding.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Sterling: Does the minister not see how ridiculous this May 28 funding deadline really is? What she is asking hospitals to do is cut off access to—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat? The question has been asked.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We are always prepared to review requests from hospitals for needed services, particularly those which are deemed to be essential in communities. I am encouraging

hospitals as well to work very closely with their district health councils to prioritize those needs within the community.

I would say to the member that it jeopardizes and places in uncertainty those programs and those hospitals that go through the planning process before they start programs and it is unfair to the majority of the hospitals in this province that come before the district health council and make their case and come to the ministry and get approval first. If we just go ahead and continually pick up deficits, we will have chaos. We must have good planning and approval before we have hospitals spending resources they do not have. That is fiscal responsibility.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We are always prepared to look at the requests from hospitals. I point out to the member that we have not cut one budget. What we are doing is increasing budgets, and the Riverside Hospital budget has increased every single year way above the level of inflation.

Mr. Harris: A budget is a budget is a budget, except when it comes to the government. It can spend billions of dollars all throughout.

EXPENDITURE SAVINGS AND CONSTRAINTS

Mr. Harris: My question is to the Chairman of Management Board. In response to a question on Monday from the member for York East (Ms. Hart), with regard to the \$500-million restraint programs that were in the budget—in other words, there is a line item that says, "Here is what we are going to spend but we will not spend this \$500 million"—the minister indicated that these savings have already been identified by respective ministers in submissions that were made prior to the budget.

He was quite clear in his response that these savings have been identified and a good number of them were well known before the budget was brought down. If that is true, it now appears that the line items in the budget are factually incorrect. I wonder if the minister is prepared to share with the House today the information that identifies those ministries and where the cuts will be made.

Hon. Mr. Elston: The honourable gentleman is correct that I indicated that very many of the ministers who are with me here in cabinet have identified areas they are reviewing for administrative efficiencies and otherwise. If the text of the report that is in front of the honourable

member indicates that the numbers have all been identified, I must apologize because that, of course, is not correct.

But I can indicate to my honourable friend that the process of identifying areas where administrative savings and other savings can be found is being very much analysed and examined now by Management Board staff. With the assistance of my ministerial colleagues and others, we expect to be putting together a plan shortly which will identify the areas in which savings can be found.

Mr. Harris: Let me quote the words the minister said. He said, "There are a number of ministers who are already indicating that certainly they have within their own environments ways in which they will provide us with assistance." Then he says, "Each one of the ministers in his or her own submissions in the run-up to budget time has indicated where he or she would be able to find, in a very real way through good management decisions, a good part of the money that we are looking for."

The minister did not say he had identified the whole \$500 million, but he did say, cumulatively, a good part. What I would like to—

Hon. Mr. Elston: No, that is right, so you were wrong.

Mr. Harris: I never said he identified the whole \$500 million.

Hon. Mr. Elston: You were wrong. You said I did.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Harris: I did not say he had identified the—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Harris: The basis for the minister's answer on Monday was that each one of the ministers had identified where, in a very real way, he or she was going to be able to find a good part of the money. Could he share with the House that specific information he gave to us on Monday? Which ministers identified where they were going to be able to find the money? Surely we are entitled to that.

Hon. Mr. Elston: I had already indicated that all my ministerial colleagues have identified places where they feel there can be administrative changes which will provide us with savings. All of those ministers are well known to the member, but if he wishes, I can list them: the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), the Attorney General (Mr. Scott)—and I can tell the member that each one of my ministerial colleagues has been extremely helpful in providing us with an examination of his or her ministry.

All of my ministerial colleagues are co-operating to provide good, sound administrative savings for the budgetary process which the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) introduced here. As the member knows, all of the people will be participating with us in finding where those savings are. I cannot do more than list every one of my colleagues.

Mr. Harris: We know what happened last year. The minister waited until the end of the year, and then everybody who underspent said: "Oh, look, what good boys are we. We found these cuts. These people cut back." Nobody cut back. They could not figure out a way to spend the money fast enough, in spite of the fact that a number of others overspent more than enough, so the government was still well over budget.

The other thing that happened last year is that all the government services, the ones for the fat government, went up; all the services for the people are where the cuts were made.

1410

Does the minister think it is responsible, when he is planning his budget, to have a ministry come to him and say, "Look, I want this amount of dollars, but I am pre-identifying for you I can cut here"? Why would the minister give them the money if they already know where they are going to save the money in the first place? Does he think that is responsible budgeting, and if in fact they do not know, why does he say he already knows where he is going to find cuts?

Hon. Mr. Elston: The process about which I spoke was an identification in the prebudget submissions of areas where we felt there are administrative opportunities available to us. It may take some time to implement all of those, but it is not only the intention but in fact also the will of this government to find the savings which were identified by the Treasurer when he tabled the budget.

I just have to indicate one thing that this honourable House leader would, I am sure, like to identify for the public. That is the fact that we in the government are still awaiting the budgets which are supposed to be coming down for the Legislative Assembly, which include items like the \$100,000-and-some that we paid to bail out the third party because of the post-election chaos due to its overspending in its budgets.

Also, it may be of interest to find out that in fact there are certain enrichments being planned for the opposition parties which in fact will pay them more than the combined budget for the 64 back-bench members of the Liberal Party.

It seems to me that if they really wish to talk about bloated bureaucracies, they should take a look in a mirror, because it seems to me those people are not only holding up our budget process, we do not even know what the bottom line for this thing is. I am telling them, they can also look in the mirror.

NUCLEAR POWER

Mr. Charlton: In view of the absence of the Minister of Energy (Mr. Wong) and the absence of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer has been here in this Legislature from the beginning of the debate around Ontario Hydro's nuclear facilities. As a matter of fact, he has been on his feet a number of times raising very serious concerns about the escalating costs of the Darlington project.

The Treasurer will be aware that in today's media it was announced that Darlington has suffered another cost overrun of \$528 million. Add to that the ever-escalating costs of retubing all of Hydro's reactors at an earlier stage than was originally expected, and knowing from the hearings in 1986 that Treasury and Economics keeps a very close watch on Hydro capital spending, can the Treasurer tell us what the government view is of the cost overruns that have occurred and the cost implications of the two failures in terms of the future of the nuclear program in Ontario?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: The "failures" the honourable member is talking about is the sagging of the calandria tubes somewhat prematurely. It was expected that the reactors at Pickering would continue operating for about another five years without the extensive and expensive renovation to brace them up by replacement, which is a very costly operation. The fact that this is happening about five years prematurely is serious, but it is certainly built into the general expenditure and maintenance of the Candu reactors, of which we are all so proud.

As far as Darlington is concerned, naturally the overruns are a matter of special interest and concern, but I think we have to be aware that this has been, for probably three years and longer, the largest single construction project in North America and certainly one of the most highly intricate technologically. In many respects, it is a marvellous achievement of the Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and Ontario Hydro, which have developed this resource.

Whatever you think about its future, certainly no one can in any way criticize the technology that has been developed. We are not talking

about its general utilization, although a time may come when we would want to discuss that in more detail.

Mr. Charlton: The Treasurer should know he is incorrect that the costs of the tube failures have been built into the overall operating costs of the Candu reactors. In fact, in his release of the nuclear safety study some weeks ago, Kenneth Hare made a particular point of identifying the tube failure problem as a source of potential economic crisis for Ontario Hydro because it has no solution to that problem.

Because Ontario Hydro is still using old numbers in its demand-supply planning strategy for the future of Ontario, old numbers related to its nuclear plants and old numbers that omit the costs of the tube failures, can the Treasurer assure this House that, in consultation with his colleague the Minister of Energy, the select committee on energy will be provided with up-to-date data on nuclear costs, so that in our review of that document we can reasonably assess the accuracy of Hydro's findings?

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I think the actual cost associated with the speeded-up renovation of the tubes, which had not failed, is about \$800 million, which is a colossal sum in anybody's list but, in relation to the value and productivity of those reactors, is manageable.

I hope the honourable member is not going to refer to failures in this particular reference, because failure did occur when a similar problem in the reactors at Pickering resulted in a split and a leakage; certainly that was a failure. In this instance, the timing of the renovation avoided failure, and I am not informed that the technology is not correctable, because I personally believe that it is.

To answer the second part of the honourable member's question, I would say without any doubt that Ontario Hydro and the Ministry of Energy will provide correct and up-to-date figures, because we have a good deal of confidence and expectation in the work of the committee the honourable member sits on, which is represented by all parties.

HOUSING SUPPLY

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. Last night the colossal waste, bureaucracy and inept management of the Ministry of Housing in Ontario was again emphasized at a seminar that was held by the Toronto Home Builders' Association. Yesterday the Minister of Housing could not tell us exactly what constitutes affordable housing, and she

would not admit, or probably does not even know, just what affordability is.

I would like to ask the minister, is there some semblance of a clear answer that we can get today on how many new housing units will be built in this current calendar year?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: There are a variety of sources of information for the housing projections built in the current calendar year. The projections made by Clayton Research suggest that the number of housing units will be significantly lower than last year but none the less one of the biggest building years in the history of the province.

Mr. Cousens: You know, we are getting the same kind of failure on the part of this minister, who is generating a lot of heat over there, but so far we have not seen any light. We have learned one thing, though: that the Liberal government is famous for making promises and is particularly great and gifted at breaking those promises. All told, this government has made more than 30 different housing promises and policy announcements since taking office. They have promised anywhere from 102,000 to 150,000 housing units.

If the minister is interested in trying to redeem herself, I ask the minister again to tell this House specifically how many new units will be built this year; not how many units have been promised, but how many units will actually be built by the end of this calendar year. Answer it, for a change.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I was referring to the projections made by Clayton Research on the production of units in the private house-building market. If the member is asking me how many units are going to be produced by us and by our ministry, I can tell him that we had promised to build 25,000 units over the next three to five years. In our budget, we promised to build 30,000 more over that period of three to five years, and we are working actively with the nonprofit sector to make sure they are built.

Just today I took my colleague Mr. Bourbeau, who is the Minister of Housing for Quebec, and his colleagues, who are sitting in the visitors' gallery, around with me to see many projects in the nonprofit and co-op sector that have been built and that are in the process of being built in this province. I invite the honourable member opposite to come with me to see as many of them as he would like to come and see, and to see the people who are living in them and who are at home in them.

I would like him to take me to the number of projects that are being built to house people who need help in housing in his riding of Markham, because I will match him 10 to 1, 100 to 1, for the ones we are building.

1420

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Mr. Daigeler: My question is to the Minister of Education. I am sure the minister is aware that the special-education legislation, which was introduced through Bill 82, has been in place for several years and was generally welcomed both by the parents and by the school boards. Nevertheless, in the implementation, a number of problems have come to the fore and I understand he is presently looking at possible amendments to the legislation.

In the interest of the best possible changes, I am wondering whether the minister can share with this House what the main concerns are that have been identified and whether he can give us an indication as to the direction in which he wants to move himself.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I want to thank the member for his question and for giving me notice of his intent to ask the question today, because I know it is a matter that very many members take a great interest in.

We have indeed been reviewing the requirements of the Education Act as they relate to special education in this province. We have been considering concerns such as the rights and privileges of trainable retarded pupils under the act, questions as to who has rights to be considered by a board's identification and placement review committee's assessment under the regulations, the appeal mechanisms and whatever improvements we could come forward with, special-education advisory committees and their membership provisions and many other improvements as well.

We certainly continue to encourage school boards in the development of their special-ed programs in the provision of a wide and fair range of placements for all their exceptional students.

Mr. Daigeler: I thank the minister for this information, which I think is going to be helpful, not just for the members here but also for anyone who is looking at the special-education provisions at this time.

As a supplementary, can the minister advise this House when he might introduce amended legislation and whether in this process he intends to put forward some consultation paper that will

further improve the possibility to have input into this legislation?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I cannot give the member a precise date today. It had been my intent to be able to table the amendments prior to the end of this session. We have submitted and consulted with every board of education in this province and the very many interested client groups and parents' associations. We have received over 240 submissions. We are analysing that input and will be coming forward once we complete that process.

CIVIL SERVANTS' CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Mr. Philip: I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board. The minister will be aware that his closest cabinet counterpart in the federal government, namely, the President of the Treasury Board, has implemented conflict-of-interest rules for senior public servants that prohibit for one year a former public servant from acting in an advocacy capacity or even providing consulting services to outside-interest bodies that are dealing with the government.

Similar conflict-of-interest rules have been passed by United States jurisdictions and by other provinces. Can the minister tell the House why such provisions are not in place yet in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I can tell the honourable gentleman that the result of the stories generated through some reports earlier this week—at least I think they were earlier this week—have drawn our attention to examining and taking a look at what is in fact in our directives and guidelines. I will tell the honourable gentleman that suggestions about what happens in the federal scene and other locations are of interest to us at Management Board.

Mr. Philip: Why does it take two cases such as, recently, Don Reid, former director of the loan and trust corporations branch, Ministry of Financial Institutions—who took a position of executive vice-president at Morgan Trust—and Rod McLeod, until recently Deputy Minister of the Environment—who is now acting in an advocacy capacity for Algoma Steel, a company presently under investigation by that very ministry he was deputy minister of—to finally have this minister come to look at a situation which we in the opposition have been calling on this government to look at for so many years?

When are we getting conflict-of-interest legislation for senior civil servants and why has the government neglected to act until now?

Hon. Mr. Elston: I guess the first recollection I have of coming into this House in 1981 was of a bit of a furore that was generated by the activity of a then just-past minister in taking up a role of advocating on behalf of some people he used to work with. It generated an awful lot of interest at that point with respect to the roles of former ministers, and there was something done about it.

It seems to me that what we have now is a considerable amount of attention drawn to the fact that there may be problems with our current guidelines and directives with respect to senior bureaucrats. That having occurred, we are looking at the other places the member has identified. I have not yet seen the things that are happening in the United States, but we are certainly aware of some of the things that are happening federally, because that in fact was part of the report which came over the airwaves.

I can tell the member that we had not acted because probably it had not seemed to be a problem to this point in time, although it may have just gone unnoticed or whatever. I have not until now seen the difficulties the member has enumerated. I think it is our intention to examine our directives in light of some of the concerns legitimately raised by the honourable member opposite, which I know he takes very seriously in his role in the standing committee on public accounts, previously and now as chairman, as do all of us.

RENT REGISTRY

Mr. Jackson: My question is for the Minister of Housing, who is painfully aware of the critical levels of bureaucratic backlogging which have occurred in the three main areas of her Residential Rent Regulation Act, Bill 51. She is aware that there are critical backlogs in the applications for rent review, in the area of appeals of those hearings or awards and also in the area of legal rent verification under the rent registry.

Could the minister advise this House specifically of the number of tenants in Ontario today who have received notification of the legal rents that they should be paying, as recorded in the rent registry?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I do not have the exact number for the member. I can tell him that there are, as he knows, 24,000 applications pending, and those represent either individual apartments or, in many cases, whole-building reviews with a large number of tenants related to each one. I do not want to give the member a number that is not

precisely exact; I will give him an exact one later on.

Mr. Jackson: We are not talking about whole buildings; we are talking about specific units. We understand that there are approximately one million units in Ontario in buildings with more than six units and that in fact the rent registry has provided verification notices for just under 100,000. The ministry has a critical backlog now in the rent registry, so that tenants in Ontario are unaware exactly what their legal rent should be.

The minister says she is acting in a judicious manner with this problem, but in fact she is operating in a somewhat discriminatory manner in this regard. I have a letter here from—

Mr. Speaker: Question,

Mr. Jackson: —a Charles Hopper, who wrote to the minister on November 17. He waited four months for a response from the minister. I have another letter for an opposition MPP—

Mr. Speaker: And your supplementary question would be?

Mr. Jackson: My question is, regarding the letter to an opposition MPP who waited half as long for the minister's response with all these backlogs in the ministry, why are some tenants in Ontario being dealt with differently from other tenants in this province by her ministry when it has such a backlog?

Mr. Speaker: The question has been asked.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: In fact, we are dealing with tenants as fairly as we possibly can, and that is one of the reasons for the time this is taking. In the rent registry, what we have are all the units in the province that are in buildings that have six units or more, which are being processed through the registry, and we are sending information to tenants as expeditiously as possible. That number is close to 600,000 in the province.

It seems to me that the concern of the member about the time it takes to answer letters is another matter entirely. Letters are answered as quickly as possible by the ministry. The letters that come from members of the public are often much more detailed and involve much more work for us to answer them as appropriately and fairly as possible, and we do that.

1430

LIQUOR LICENCE

Ms. Collins: I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. My question pertains to the sale of duty-free alcohol at the Hamilton Airport in Mount Hope in my riding.

As the minister is aware, the federal government has already licensed a facility for the sale of other duty-free goods at the airport. The minister is also aware that the same duty-free facility is now seeking a provincial liquor licence for the sale of duty-free alcohol. My question is, why has the Liquor Control Board of Ontario not processed and granted this company's application?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I thank the honourable member for her question, because it raises a problem that we are attempting to resolve with the federal government and with the Ministry of Transport.

I believe the honourable member would know that in a number of similar situations with duty-free shops at land border crossings, a process was entered into between the Ministry of Transport, the government of Ontario and the LCBO whereby there was a public tendering process. At the end of that process the licence was given not only by the Ministry of Transport for a duty-free shop but also for a liquor licence through the LCBO.

Regrettably, that has not occurred in the Hamilton situation, where, as the honourable member points out, an individual is now running a duty-free shop and only latterly has come forward and said, "Now what about a liquor licence?"

I can tell the honourable member that the LCBO is attempting to work with the federal government in an effort to get the same kind of public tendering process in the airport duty-free stores as we have had at the land border points. Those discussions are continuing.

Ms. Collins: I am concerned that passengers on international flights at Hamilton Airport will not enjoy the same services available at similar airports in Ontario. Given that this facility is the only duty-free shop at the airport, and given the other specific circumstances of this case, would the minister consider granting the licence to this outlet?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: That is certainly something that is an option we face, but it is not one that I wish to pursue.

The honourable member is correct, and I applaud her sensitivity. As her own community attempts to establish its airport for international travel, certainly the people from the Hamilton region who will be using that airport deserve the same kind of rights that other international airports have. But I suggest to my friend that there is an important process here whereby there ought to be a clear and open public tendering

where all those who might want to be involved in the tender would understand what they are getting: not just a duty-free store with nonalcoholic beverages but also, at the end of the day, a liquor licence, because very clearly, the involvement of liquor in a duty-free store may make the tender much more attractive to some.

I would suggest that perhaps the federal government may want to approach the company which now has the tender and see if we can reopen the process and thereby get this matter resolved.

TRUCKING SAFETY

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. For the last 72 hours, the Michigan state police have been undertaking a blitz surveillance of Ontario transport trucks crossing at the Sarnia and Windsor crossing points. In the first day of the blitz at Sarnia's Blue Water Bridge, 35 of 44 trucks—that is 80 per cent—were hauled off the road because of safety violations. Almost half the truck drivers were unfit because of either fatigue or impairment.

Can the minister tell the House how the people and the environment of this province are being protected by his ministry when the majority of the transport trucks are shown to be so blatantly unsafe?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I thank the member for her question. The inspections that are taking place right now are the result of an agreement—they have been going on for three days, including today—between 25 American states and certain Canadian provinces.

The member has identified a problem that we have been addressing or attempting to address in this House for some time. Highway safety and truck traffic on the highways are of paramount interest to me as the minister and to this government, and I think we have demonstrated that. Perhaps the honourable member might be helpful in persuading her colleagues to allow us to proceed with the Truck Transportation Act.

Mr. B. Rae: That provides less regulation than we have now.

Mrs. Grier: That is a complete copout and certainly does nothing to address the problem that is being identified. The point is that the problems being picked up in this surveillance at the border points are problems that exist all throughout the province and that are not being picked up by the minister's checkpoints. Is the minister going to see that the safety checkpoints and the weigh scales in this province are manned on a 24-hour-a-day basis, seven days a week, so

that these violations can be picked up within Ontario, not just when they leave to take their problems somewhere else?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member should be aware that, indeed, in both Sarnia and Windsor at our truck inspection stations, the same actions are taking place, and one of the bills we have before the House, which received first reading in December, deals specifically with those issues. Members of that caucus have denied that being passed in this Legislature.

NOISE BARRIERS

Mrs. Marland: My question also is for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to ask the minister a question regarding the two Queen Elizabeth Way noise barrier walls which he promised the residents of Mississauga during the last election campaign in a ministry release. I would also indicate to the minister that I will be forwarding his response to those residents who are awaiting some action, because I have been writing to the minister and not getting answers.

Will the minister tell my constituents today when his ministry will begin construction on the 2.1-kilometre barrier on the south side of the highway east of Southdown Road and the other 1.2-kilometre barrier on the south side of the Queen Elizabeth Way west of Highway 10, as promised in his press release of August 31?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member asked me this question some time ago, and I gave her the same answer. If we promised those barriers to be put in place this construction season, they will be put in place. I keep my word. If the member has not heard from me before today, it was because I was talking to her mayor.

Mrs. Marland: I am very encouraged to hear that the minister will keep his word. I think it would be very good, however, if he would consider answering the correspondence by putting his promises in words in a letter in response to the questions.

It is true that I have asked him before, but I asked the minister again today because his previous answer was not clear, it was not a clear commitment. In fact, in his press release the minister said that "this most extensive undertaking will see the 2.1-kilometre barrier erected," and he goes on to name those locations. The interpretation that all of us got is that the project is a go and was budgeted for last year, and yet our knowledge of what is going on in the ministry is that the design and function stage has not even been begun yet.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member would be aware that it is very early in the construction season. There are any number of projects within this ministry that have not physically started out on the roadway or wherever. As I have said to her repeatedly, when I get out of here I will go back to my office and finish answering my multitude of mail. We will keep the commitment that was made to her some time ago.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I wonder if I could ask a question to the Minister of Labour. The minister perhaps is not aware, but there are a great many concerns that have been voiced by many workers who are affected by sections of the Workers' Compensation Act, and they are awaiting word from the minister as to when they can expect some amendments and revisions to the act and when, in fact, we are going to see them.

I would like to ask the minister, can he tell us in the House today, if it is his intention to bring forward amendments to the Workers' Compensation Act before the end of June of this year?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: It is a good question and it is an important one. The simple answer I can give to the Leader of the Opposition is that my intentions today are the same as my intentions expressed over the past many months: that is, we are proceeding apace within the ministry and within the cabinet process to craft reforms that we think are going to make dramatic improvements to the worker compensation system. I expect to be in a position before the end of this session, even if this session ends on the last day of June, to introduce a piece of legislation for consideration by the House.

1440

Mr. B. Rae: If the minister were serious about wanting to get it through this year, he knows full well that it would be good for us to have a debate this spring, for it to go to committee and then for us to come back in the fall for final consideration.

The changes, which I know the minister is considering, are major; they affect literally hundreds of thousands of workers in this province, and they will impact directly on their pension levels, on their rights to rehabilitation and on their rights to reinstatement.

If we are going to have a real change in workers' compensation for the benefit of workers, I would plead with the minister not to dump it on us at the last minute before the summer recess, but to give us an opportunity at least to have a discussion here prior to the recess

so we can be assured that some kind of change will take place before the end of 1988.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am obviously not the one who controls the agenda of the House and the timing of business within this House, nor obviously am I going to determine how long this House sits.

What I should tell the Leader of the Opposition is simply this: Obviously, for me, it would have been politically expedient to introduce a bill somewhat sooner. I would have liked that. I had made the commitment. The entire world concerned with worker compensation issues has been anticipating that there would be a bill. I would have been delighted to be in a position today to introduce a bill.

The fact is that I have taken a route that I consider to be a wiser route; that is, a route that gives me more opportunity to do a more effective job of consultation with communities of all sorts that are concerned about these issues, including the injured worker community and the community particularly concerned about rights to vocational rehabilitation and rights to reinstatement, so that when a bill is finally presented, it will be the right bill for the right occasion, a bill that I believe will improve the system, as I said, in a dramatic way.

EDUCATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS

Mr. Cureatz: I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Correctional Services. I am wondering if the minister would be so kind as to indicate whether he has an estimated annual total cost of educating a young offender within any of the institutions in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It is a pleasure to be up answering a question from the honourable member, who graces us with his presence in the House today.

I would be very pleased to give him a detailed account of what the expenses are in taking care of a young offender, because we have secure custody and open-custody facilities, we contract out with the boards of education to supply high school training in our facilities, we have different treatment in different facilities, and each of the different types of facility has various overhead costs.

It would be very difficult to give one ballpark figure and to say, "This is the cost of keeping a young offender," but I would be quite pleased, and surely during the estimates period in the next couple of weeks, to give him all the details of all those different programs.

Mr. Cureatz: I am pleased that the minister has recognized my attendance here on Thursday. I would like to go back over past history when he was associated with another party to see what his attendance was in regard to being here in the third party in a time long ago.

In response to the minister's answer, I want to point out to him that the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward), interestingly enough—I say to “Bobby the Beach” Nixon over there, who is always too busy meditating his toes—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the honourable member is aware that the tradition of this House is to refer to other members by their constituency or their ministry.

Mr. Cureatz: I want to say to the Minister of Correctional Services that, interestingly enough, the Minister of Education seems to have a figure in regard to some of the problems in his colleague's ministry. The Minister of Education has indicated that approximately \$10.5 million was spent for the provision of educational programs in correctional facilities for approximately 1,450 pupils; that works out to roughly \$7,000 per pupil annually. I want to say to the minister that in regard to other educational facilities across the province, that figure is substantially higher.

Mr. Speaker: Question?

Mr. Cureatz: Would the minister, first, please confirm in his investigations what the amount is, and second, assure this House that he will do his best to reduce that amount of money spent annually for students in regard to the correctional facilities?

Mr. Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Well, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear a question during the allotted time of question period.

Mr. Speaker: That completes the allotted time for oral questions.

PETITION

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Callahan: I have a petition signed by members of my constituency as well as myself. It is addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“We are opposed to open Sunday shopping and want to retain a common pause day in Ontario.”

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

PUBLIC LANDS AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ward, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Kerrio, moved first reading of Bill 137, An Act to amend the Public Lands Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Ward: Just very briefly, there is a lengthy explanation, but I am told by the minister that the amendments he is proposing to the act will allow the Ministry of Natural Resources to manage public lands in a manner consistent with the more active approach taken by this government and will enable all of us to better use our crown lands for the benefit of all Ontarians.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

Hon. Mr. Conway: Before calling the orders of the day, I would like to table the interim answers to questions 101, 124 and 127 and the final answers to questions 119, 123, 135, 136 and the responses to sessional papers P-7, P-16 and P-17 standing in Orders and Notices [see Hansard for Tuesday, May 24].

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BIG CEDAR ASSOCIATION ACT

Mr. Owen moved second reading of Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Big Cedar Association.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF MARKETING MANAGEMENT OF ONTARIO ACT

Ms. Collins moved, on behalf of Ms. Hart, second reading of Bill Pr5, An Act respecting the Chartered Institute of Marketing Management of Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

1450

OSHAWA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT

Mr. Reville moved, on behalf of Mr. Breaugh, second reading of Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the Oshawa Public Utilities Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

L F P MANAGEMENT LIMITED ACT

Mrs. Fawcett moved second reading of Bill Pr11, An Act to revive L F P Management Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF SUDBURY ACT

Mr. Campbell moved second reading of Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Sudbury.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA ACT

Mr. Offer moved second reading of Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the City of Mississauga.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

HAMILTON CIVIC HOSPITALS ACT

Ms. Collins moved second reading of Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the Hamilton Civic Hospitals.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

KINGSWAY GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY ACT

Mr. Cousens moved second reading of Bill Pr25, An Act respecting Kingsway General Insurance Company.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

ONTARIO MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE ACT

Mr. Campbell moved second reading of Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the Ontario Municipal Management Institute.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

MID-CONTINENT BOND CORPORATION, LIMITED ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Mr. M. C. Ray, second reading of Bill Pr28, An Act to revive Mid-Continent Bond Corporation, Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Mr. Epp, second reading of Bill Pr29, An Act respecting The United Church of Canada and The Canada Conference The Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

GENERAL HOSPITAL OF PORT ARTHUR ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Mr. Kozyra, second reading of Bill Pr30, An Act respecting The General Hospital of Port Arthur.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF NORTH YORK ACT

Hon. Mr. Conway moved, on behalf of Mr. Polsinelli, second reading of Bill Pr31, An Act respecting The City of North York.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

MACHIN MINES LIMITED ACT

Mr. Kanter moved second reading of Bill Pr34, An Act to revive Machin Mines Limited.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO ACT

Mr. Reyecraft moved second reading of Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the University of Western Ontario.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

PROW YELLOWKNIFE GOLD MINES LTD. ACT

Mr. Kanter moved second reading of Pr38, An Act to revive Prow Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

TOWN OF OAKVILLE ACT

In the absence of Mr. Carrothers, Hon. Mr. Conway moved second reading of Bill Pr48, An Act respecting the Town of Oakville.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF TORONTO ACT

Mr. Kanter moved second reading of Bill Pr56, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

Mr. Kanter moved third reading of Bill Pr56, An Act respecting the City of Toronto.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members.

1504

Mr. Reville: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to beg the pardon of the House. When I read Bill Pr56, I was reading an earlier copy. I understand now from the sponsor of the bill that the section to which I objected has been struck from the bill. Therefore, I would like to suggest that we vote on third reading, in which case this party will be voting in favour thereof.

Mr. Speaker: Unanimous agreement?

Agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

WINDSOR UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT

Mr. Reycraft moved, on behalf of Mr. M. C. Ray, second reading of Bill Pr62, An Act respecting The Windsor Utilities Commission.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

CITY OF HAMILTON ACT

Mr. Charlton moved second reading of Bill Pr67, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Motion agreed to.

Third reading also agreed to on motion.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mrs. Cunningham: The debate was adjourned on May 9, and I would like to continue with my concluding observations on education at this point.

We were talking on May 9 about the government's promises during the election in September. I would like to move on to the commitment, from as early as 1985, by this government to increase the provincial share of education costs to 60 per cent. Instead, of course, we all know by looking at the numbers that the provincial share is in fact declining. I think the public is coming to

understand that this truly was just another election promise. And why should the local taxpayers be asked to pay more today because of the government's unplanned, irresponsible promises?

In 1984-85, the total cost of education assumed by this province was 47.6 per cent. In 1988, although the boards of education across the province disagree with the Ministry of Education numbers, they still have the same conclusionary observations. The boards say that the provincial contribution is 42.7 per cent; the Ministry of Education says 44.9 per cent. It does not really matter how you look at it; it is much less than the almost 48 per cent that was being put towards education by the provincial government when in fact this party was the government. Instead of moving towards 60 per cent, it is obvious that this government is moving downwards, towards 40 per cent. I would not want to be out there campaigning on that platform in the next provincial election.

By the way, having been in education for 14 years, I think it was a very unrealistic number for the Liberals to choose.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Are you spending more money, Dianne?

Mrs. Cunningham: In response to the question of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) with regard to talking about spending more money on education, just a little number: in 1986 the total percentage of provincial spending was 13.2 per cent. In a call to the minister's government offices today, I was given the ministry's own numbers. They tell me that in 1987-88 the total spending on education was 12.3 per cent, again going down.

The capital requests from school boards for 1989-90 total \$1.7 billion and that of course was their hope and expectation for capital expenditures for a year from now. To spend approximately \$900 million over three years, as suggested by the minister recently, will not begin to meet the demands of school boards. It sounds like a big number. It is a number they should be concerned about. I think it is a number they truly are concerned about. Nine hundred million dollars would not have covered the requests from last year, let alone a total request or plan for the next three years. I know, and they know, they will have to look at that. It is totally unrealistic.

1510

As we went door to door in the by-election recently in London North, the taxpayers were very much concerned about the taxes they were asked to pay, but the one thing they did expect

was schools for their children, and that definitely is not an unrealistic desire by parents. They have always been there as long as we can remember. They may not be happy spending tax dollars, but they certainly will be even less happy if their children do not have schools to go to. I am now talking about the kinds of schools we have been able to provide in this province at least for the last 20 years.

I suggest they should be very much concerned in this budget about the amount of money set aside for portable classrooms. From 1985, when the Liberals became the government and were responsible for education policy, the number of portables between 1985 and 1987 increased by 39 per cent. Those are real numbers.

Upon a visit to the Ministry of Education capital offices not too long ago, I was shocked to enter into discussion with the government's bureaucracy around the topic of the day. The topic that afternoon was where the fire marshal would approve the fire routes between the rows and rows of portable classrooms, as they looked at a number of school boards, nine in particular that afternoon, specifically in Metropolitan Toronto, the region of Durham and in the region of York.

I am very familiar with this. I know they have a great responsibility to young people in this province. I could talk about additional busing; I could talk about crowded facilities; but I will talk today just a little longer on education because it happens to be something we are all concerned about, and that has to do with the implementation of Bill 30 as it affects capital facilities in this province.

The member for Renfrew North will be most familiar with the meetings he and I attended during the hearings on Bill 30. He was our hero when he promised that the Bill 30 implementation would not be at the cost of the public school system.

Mr. Cureatz: Did he live up to the promise?

Mrs. Cunningham: He has not lived up to the promise. I know he will, but he has a long way to go and a lot of it has to do with efficiency in government spending. My challenge to this Liberal government would be to take a look at the size of its bureaucracy and to try to be much more efficient. It has a very short period of time to clean up a very bad act, especially in regard to education.

I would like to move on now to my comments with regard to the Ministry of Skills Development, which is one of the portfolios for which I am expected to be critic. It is a very easy one to be

critical of, I might add. I have not been here very long but I find that ministry, to put it bluntly, in disastrous shape when it comes to the way it spends money and the way it does not spend money on programs that are very important to people who are looking to this government for leadership.

One reads the numbers of pieces of paper that are passed around, attends the conferences, looks at the books and all the promises to schools out there in the community. I take a look at more options for delivering new apprenticeship initiatives and see a news release, "Expanded Apprenticeship System Will Attract More Young People." That is just one. It goes on and on and I read and read and read, but when I visit, I see very little.

The most unhappy people are those who cannot find employment in our society today and they are people who are eager to work but require our assistance in training and acquiring skills. The Ministry of Skills Development underspent its budget by \$77 million last year. Those were programs that were promised, those were programs we need badly and those were programs that promised to change the lives of many people, young and old. Spending by the ministry in 1987-88 was 5.7 per cent less than in 1986-87. The allocation in the budget for skills development was slashed by \$47 million or 10.3 per cent this year.

It was slashed probably because they could not spend it. For heaven's sake, the government should admit it and go out and tell young people that it just does not know how to deliver the programs that are so necessary. If the government cannot do it, then for heaven's sake, it should work with the ministries that are able to deliver programs. They should do something about it.

The Futures program for hard-to-employ young people spent \$79 million of its total budget. Some \$65 million of its budget was not even spent. That is almost one half of its allocated budget. We will be raising questions with regard to Futures time and time again over the next two or three months if someone cannot come to some conclusion about how this program can be delivered.

The Ontario Training Corp., which is part of the new training strategy and which is supposed to be the flagship training program, was a year late getting off the ground. Just phoning people and getting them together for a meeting so they could provide the leadership seemed to me to

take more than a year. That is totally unacceptable.

The apprenticeship program is riddled with problems. I brought this to the attention of the House during question period last week. First, there is no new financing structure for apprenticeship programs. None of it has been agreed upon with the federal government, so let's blame the feds. The province should stop blaming the federal government for the delay in the report that was due so long ago. If it is a priority, why does the government not go after it?

There are other ministers in the government in other portfolios who are going after agreements with our federal counterparts. They seem to be doing fine. In spite of not getting an agreement, the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) came up with a solution to the problem that met some of the needs of day care. Surely this could be happening in skills development as well. Passing the buck is not acceptable to the citizens of Ontario.

In program delivery, problems continue to neutralize any of the potential benefits that greater awareness campaigns, like the one sponsored by the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek), have for future building.

We all know about the successful conference that was held in Toronto last week. The sad part is that 50,000 young people took part in this conference and their expectations were raised. They will go home and find that it is very difficult, if possible at all, to get a position as an apprentice. We aimed at young people, and we are sending them home and they are becoming disillusioned. There are ways of making this happen.

School boards are angry about this. In fact, they are the ones that paid the bill to send the students to the conference, not the Ministry of Skills Development nor the Ministry of Housing, which is what I was led to believe in the advertising that went on. There are ministries that are prepared to do some work, but this was a waste of some wonderful effort and certainly of money. Students and parents are becoming more disillusioned as time goes on.

I think we could be steering students into building trades, first of all, if there was a mandate within some ministry of this government—there does not seem to be—if the government supported these ideas enough to get them going and it really thought there was a problem. It knows there is. We are questioning the Minister of Housing on a daily basis.

One of the reasons for slow delivery is that we need more people in the building trades. The Minister of Skills Development (Mr. Curling) has a responsibility to provide these programs. The Liberals are the people who have the rules that need to be fixed. Students right now, quite frankly, have to quit school in order to qualify for many of the apprenticeship programs. What kind of leadership is that?

Program implementation problems exist. Regulations impose unrealistic ratios for journeymen to apprentices. The result is that willing and able young people cannot properly register and are therefore turned away.

The promises delivered by the member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara) last August 31 will never be kept, the way this ministry is operating. The promises of 20,000 apprenticeship positions within five years can never be realized unless this ministry gets its act together and is more able and capable of implementing programs. I think the sad thing for young people today is that when they are disillusioned by government, they then become disillusioned with themselves.

1520

There is a problem of serious mismanagement in this ministry. My research efforts have discovered that there is no enabling legislation and, therefore, the Ministry of Skills Development does not really officially even exist. The ministry underspent for programs that are desperately needed for young people and older people, and poor program delivery of this ministry lowers uptake and discourages and frustrates potential employees, employers and workers alike.

I would like to move on with my concluding remarks with regard to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. This is a ministry that has a tremendous responsibility for program delivery for needy people, for children and families that are in difficulty and who are looking to us for support, direction and care. The budget did not announce any new programs for the Ministry of Community and Social Services in spite of new programs being requested by the public. It did not talk about human resource management, and this is one ministry that has tremendous bureaucratic costs. It did not talk about its bureaucracy being of concern to them at all. In fact, they are adding at a rate far greater than any other ministry that we could analyse in the short period of time we had.

Liberals continuously claim they are dedicated to community-based care for the elderly and the disabled; yet this budget fails to do anything

which will enable them to move towards their goal. There are no new programs for the provision of community-based care. The foster care system is in a crisis. Childrens' aid societies are having trouble attracting new foster care parents, and many children are being sent to cities far away from home for foster care.

The Ontario Association of Childrens' Aid Societies has recently released a report which details the lack of incentives to attract quality foster care, including poor remuneration and lack of benefits. The Minister of Community and Social Services is aware that there are problems with the present system, but he does not believe there is a crisis. This budget fails to address this issue.

Throwing dollars is not the solution, by the way; it certainly is not the solution at all. Supporting foster parents in their work is; so my request would be that we see some initiative to support foster parents, to provide the support they really need and to make them feel as important as they really are to this community.

The budget also fails to mention any reforms of the social services system in the province, which this government has promised since it came to power in 1985. This is a source of embarrassment to all of us who are concerned about unemployed workers and people on social assistance programs.

There is no mention of the Social Assistance Review Committee report, which was supposed to have been released a year ago, or the provincial-municipal cost-sharing report. If the budget is any indication, this province will be waiting another year for any reforms to our social services system.

I will now outline a very few of the problems with Ontario's system which should have been addressed in this year's budget, things that we were looking for.

A report prepared by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto says the city is wasting millions of dollars each year because there are not enough training programs for welfare recipients. We have spoken to this in the House before and we will be pursuing it. The report goes on to state that despite increased rhetoric coming from the federal and provincial governments about the need for more training, the existing array of programs fails to deliver on this promise. People over 45 make up almost a quarter of unemployed workers in Metro. They are less apt to be able to transfer existing skills to new jobs, but access of older workers to training programs is inadequate. Existing training sys-

tems do not help enough with child care, transportation and health benefits.

The National Anti-Poverty Organization is preparing a report on rural poverty which is expected to be ready this summer. This budget fails to deal with many of the problems in rural Ontario. Poverty in rural Ontario is hidden. Farmers who have been hurt by low commodity prices and high operating costs and single mothers who move to rural areas in search of affordable housing make up a large portion of rural Ontario's poverty-stricken. One only needs to go and talk to the workers in those communities. They can tell one a lot about lack of affordable housing, about lack of child care and about more of their concerns.

We were looking for programs in this budget to support these people, the people who need the support of this province, and we just simply did not see them. These people do not know how the system works or whom to turn to for help. They are fearful still, even in 1988, that if they ask for too much help, the government will take away their children. It seems unreal that those are the responses to questions when we say, "Why don't you tell someone?" In 1988, they are still concerned about that.

Food banks are new to rural Ontario. However, they are growing, as are emergency hostels. We had hoped to see some reform of Ontario's social service system in this budget to deal with some of the problems I have just outlined. However, once again, the Liberals have failed to live up to their promise of reform.

There are a number of questions the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has failed to address, and we must ask ourselves what will happen to average people when the economic picture is not as bright. I am talking now about the global review of the budget. How will these average people afford to pay these back-breaking taxes? What flexibility will the government have to help people if it is spending like there is no tomorrow? The bottom line is, what will happen in the good times?

The fact is that there will be a tomorrow, but the government has completely ignored that fact. They have forgotten about the need to plan for that future day when things will not be quite as good and the revenues will not be rolling in quite as fast. They have forgotten the fact that changes in the structure of the provincial economy are necessary. We have to make adjustments to the new global economic reality.

Despite the hundreds of millions of dollars the government has taken from citizens' pockets in

this budget, there is no plan for our economic future and there is no money to help people make that adjustment. Just more of the same. The Liberal government that says, "Tax, tax, tax; spend, spend, spend," is the same government that will go to the polls three years from now and expect the public to support it.

In fact, this government has spent to the tune of an extra \$29 billion since 1985. They have continued to overspend their budget in the last three years by 10 per cent. That is not a good example to set for those of us and those taxpayers at home who are trying very hard to stay within their means. This budget says that an extra \$29 billion is not enough for this government, and I say it is wrong. I say this government has taken more than enough and I am sure the taxpayers and the voters will say the same in the future.

With sound, prudent fiscal management, not one tax increase would have been necessary in the provincial budget. If this government had balanced its budget this year, it would not have had to ask for that one per cent in sales tax. Families would not be forced to rearrange their saving patterns that they have worked so hard to achieve, especially as they save their dollars to buy a home. Unless this government changes its big spending and big taxing ways, then it is not helping Ontario's economic competitiveness in the future, but hurting it.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these remarks, Madam Speaker.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: I want to congratulate the honourable member on a very useful speech. It was not marred by the usual crying and carping that she might have picked up from her seatmate, who tries to advise her on parliamentary procedure.

I think her experience in London has shown through and I certainly appreciate the fact that most of her criticisms were well placed, without the overlay of political veneer that sometimes depreciates their value.

1530

There are many things she referred to that I would like to speak about. She referred in passing, and this of course will be based on her experience in the board of education, to the famous 60 per cent share that the province might be and perhaps should be paying. She is certainly aware of the rapid increase in the commitments of dollars from the provincial Treasury in support of education.

She would also be aware that in most jurisdictions the province pays far more than that famous balancing 60 per cent. In some of the

larger jurisdictions, particularly those with very large local assessments such as Toronto and to some extent London, one of the richest communities in Canada, the local community is equipped to pay a larger share. In my view, there is nothing unfair that this comes about.

It is, however, a bit of a concern when a member from London complains about inadequate expenditures. If any of us were to travel there—as most of us do from time to time—we would see where the taxpayers' dollars go in the provision of the very best post-secondary education and the very best hospital services. As a matter of fact, if we ever say our hospital services are world class, we are referring to what is provided both at the university and the more general facilities in the London community.

That community, as much as any other, has been well served by the allocation of taxpayers' dollars. Not that it got more than its share, but I believe the whole of the community has been well served by the fair and equitable distribution of funds in support of well-managed programs right across the province.

Mr. Cureatz: I want to say from the outset what a pleasure it is for me to have the wonderful opportunity of sitting next to my seatmate, the newly elected member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham).

Interestingly enough, my colleague has gotten to the Treasurer very well already. I noticed with great interest that he did not have the opportunity of taking in any of my learned comments when I was giving my budget debate address. But suddenly, lo and behold, we have a new elected Conservative member from the London area, the home town of the Premier (Mr. Peterson), and the Treasurer is getting a little worried, because he knows when the next election comes about he is not going to be reminding the people about the big tax grab that took place, as my colleague has indicated. Is he going to be reminding the fine people of Ontario about the increase from seven cents to eight cents?

Mind you, I give the Treasurer credit. I happened to be walking by the front of Queen's Park and he was taking his lumps from the business editor of the Toronto Sun and the massive demonstration that showed up against him and about this tax grab from the middle class people of Ontario. It is the kind of contribution that my seatmate from London, as new as she is, is making to these chambers. She is going to be irking the Treasurer over the next many months and a couple of years to come and reminding the people about the kind of autocracy and arrogant

government that have been set into these hallowed chambers.

Never before in the history of Ontario have we seen such a massive administration, and as the first thing, as my colleague has indicated, there is a tax grab by the Treasurer. I say a pox on his house. There will come a time when we will be reminding the people of Ontario, as my colleague has said, about the tax grab the Treasurer made.

The Acting Speaker: Order. The member's time has expired.

Mr. Reville: I want to offer my congratulations to the member for London North for her useful intervention in the debate on a most unfortunate budget. I want to offer my condolences to the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) who, while he was holding forth, drove Lorrie Goldstein of the Sun out of the room three times. I cannot figure out what that might mean.

I want to say as well that the dialogue that has occurred between the member from Earl's and the member for London North in respect of how the education system should be paid for is a familiar dialogue. I tend to side with the member for London North, although not with her predecessors in her party who in fact began the unfortunate slide towards greater reliance on the property tax base for funding of education.

I find it unfortunate that the Treasurer, in responding to the member for London North, would point out the great wealth of the city of London. There is no question that there is wealth in the city of London. The Treasurer knows, as does the member for London North, that property tax is not a progressive form of taxation and the large amount of money that property taxpayers contribute to funding education is not in any relation to their personal wealth. I have had the opportunity to go to London and meet with tenants there who are having a hard time paying their rent, and a lot of that rent goes to pay for education.

Mr. Callahan: It gives me great pleasure to participate in this debate, and I would like to perhaps move from the ordinary way that a debate of this type is—

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Excuse me, this is the opportunity for two minutes to respond—

Mr. Callahan: I thought they were finished, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: No, there is one more, the member for Middlesex.

Mr. Reycraft: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the speech of the member for

London North, whose riding neighbours mine. I enjoyed listening to her remarks when she started her speech on the ninth of this month and I enjoyed hearing the wrapup of it today.

When she started the speech early last week, she talked about education and addressed particularly the government's proposal, as announced during the last election campaign, to reduce the class sizes in early elementary grades to approximately 20 to 1.

I want to quote what she said: "Twenty to one in grades 1 and 2. Who asked the government? It has promised 20 to 1 in grades 1 and 2. It never could have done it."

She implied in her remarks that somebody had dreamed up this idea about reducing the class sizes to 20 to 1, as if the idea had come out of the clear blue sky. I am sure with a background like hers in education that she must be aware of the early primary education project that has been before the Ministry of Education and before the educational community of this province for some time now. Certainly elementary teachers particularly, right across the province, have been calling for years now for a reduction in class sizes in the early primary grades.

She also talked about the need for additional capital funding, and I am sure she wanted to comment on how the record of this government, its commitment for \$900 million over three years, compares to that of previous governments.

Mrs. Cunningham: I have just a couple of remarks. I am very happy to listen to the government members criticize my remarks, but I am also appreciative of their kind observations as well.

I was very careful—very careful—to talk about the 60 per cent number provincially. If you would like the London numbers, they are worse. I did not talk about London; I talked about a 60 per cent level of commitment to education by this province, and I said that it was an unrealistic goal and that the government set up unrealistic expectations on behalf of the public. I will stick by those remarks; I still think I am right, and I do not think they can do it.

The 20-to-1 ratio the member talked about—I would love it. For 14 years we have worked towards that. That was the Liberals' promise as well, and they promised to implement it over a three-year period. They did not think about the facilities, and my criticism is that they did not think it through. I do not think it is something they could have begun in 1987-88 and they could have completed by 1990. I still do not believe it. I

perhaps what the result of it was. It was also left up to the opposition.

I do not criticize the opposition members for that; it is their job to keep us honest. But I think in doing that they have to recognize the state of Ontario as we received it and the attempts we are making to try to provide proper educational facilities for young people, and proper health facilities, as well as how we are trying to keep in tune with the needs of those people who require some form of social assistance.

To solve or attempt to solve problems is probably the major problem that each of us has in our constituency offices, such as when someone with a young family calls up and requires social assistance housing. There are 30,000 units guaranteed in here. That, I suggest, is hopefully going to go part of the way towards trying to solve that problem, which I think we are all faced with every day.

In my community, I see very real advantages. Maybe those who do not live in the region of Peel or the great city of Brampton would say: "That's fine. The member for Brampton South is happy because he is getting good things." But I think each and every one of us in expressing our concern or our objection to the budget has to look at it in the overall perspective of Ontario as well as in the overall perspective of the people we serve in our particular ridings.

I can tell members that in the ridings of Brampton South and Brampton North—and I speak for my colleague, who is not here; he is attending another meeting—we have seen moneys for capital expansion allocated to the public and separate school boards in my community that will go a long way, but not completely, quite obviously; when I met with both the separate and public school boards in my community in 1987, they had a need of \$125 million for capital funds.

If one looks at that, one has to ask, what was happening before? Why were those funds not there? Why did the schools not keep up with the growth in the community? One has to conclude that the visionaries of the past, in terms of their budgets, elected perhaps to take the easy path and not raise taxes or to raise them minimally, or to take a poll to determine whether they should be raised or not raised, rather than taking the mature approach that this government is taking of biting the bullet and saying to the people of Ontario, "We were elected to govern, not to let Angus Reid or some other pollster tell us what was popular and, when we found out what was popular, to deal with it in that popular vein rather than to take the flak."

I think members of the opposition, rather than berating the Treasurer in terms of the approach he has taken, while still criticizing, because that is part of the opposition's role, should be looking a little more closely and recognizing that this budget and the efforts by the Treasurer and by this government itself are to move Ontario ahead to make certain our young people are properly educated.

For instance, funds were allocated for grades 1 and 2 to have smaller sized classes. I certainly think the member for London North would agree that is a progressive step; it is one that was long overdue but was never taken by the previous government. There is also the fact that we are moving into the area of trying to encourage research and development. If Ontario just simply forgets about that, then in fact what happens is that Ontario stays where it is now when the rest of the country moves ahead.

Retail sales tax: One could take a very narrow view, I suppose, and say, "Don't do it through retail sales tax, because that's something people can see." One of the things that makes me proud to be a member of the government is that we do it up front. It had not been raised since 1973 or 1975, I believe, and at that time the member for London North, who is now a member of the third party, which formerly was the Conservative government, raised it two points. I did not see anything—I was around in those days; I ran in those days—I did not see anything really coming to my community as a result of the raising of two percentiles of the retail sales tax. I think we recognize that this is an upfront way of doing it.

1550

If one looks at the sensitive nature of our government in terms of how it sets up the net cash requirements that are generated by the needs of people of Ontario and then looks at the federal government, which in fact cuts back—I think it was something in the neighbourhood of \$1.5 billion in transfer payments—where does that leave Ontario in terms of making up those funds? The federal government, in doing that, was being mean and nasty. I think what one sees is the Treasurer of Ontario attempting to cover the needs that have been lost as a result of that mean and nasty act on the part of the Minister of Finance for the federal government in terms of cutting us back \$1.5 billion.

The federal government is operating in good times too. One would think in good times that they would not do that to us. Of course, they are preparing to go to the polls. They figure Ontario is perhaps a dead loss and they really are going to

deal with us in a difficult fashion. That is unfortunate because what it does is doubly tax the citizens of this province in that they have to face a tax in Ottawa as well as face a tax in Ontario.

That is unfortunate, but you do not see the Treasurer shrinking from his responsibility. You do not see this government shrinking from its responsibility. You see it being fair and up front and saying that it is important to us to deal with social services, with education and with health care.

In my own community, during the years I ran for public office on the provincial scene, there were five- and six-hour waits in emergency services. I ran in the 1977 election and the 1981 election, and that was the most important single issue to me in running against the former Premier. Nothing happened—no second health facility whatsoever. One has to wonder, what was happening with the dollars that were being raised in taxes over those years? Why were they not being committed to that community, which was the fastest-growing community in Canada?

In the schools as well, portables were added constantly. Young people were being shuffled around, bussed from place to place, from here to there. In fact, they put up signs at the entrances to the subdivisions that were being built in my community, which said, "Your children may not be able to receive their education in this community." Can you believe that? That was the answer that was given to them at that time.

This government is trying to turn that around. What it is trying to say is that people who move into a community and pay the large dollars they pay for housing today are entitled to have their children educated at least within the reasonable limits, geographically, of the home.

I can remember speaking to my council one time, when we got to the point of nobody recognizing that we needed an additional health facility in Brampton. It was like a conspiracy of silence. The press, which today considers it to be a very major item that we have not got that health facility in three years, said nothing during those years. This government has done more in three years than the other government did, or did not do, in 10 or 15 years.

How can you possibly invite people into your community, let it grow to 181,000 people, and not have that significant need addressed? The Liberal government is moving, I think, very efficiently and very practically towards solving that problem.

I remember suggesting to my council colleagues one day that perhaps, in addition to the

school signs, we should put up signs at the entrance to new subdivisions, saying, "You may not be able to take your health care facilities in this community either."

That to me is sort of a capsulized view of what was going on in Ontario. When you reflect that against what is happening now, you have upfront taxation and you do not have hidden attempts to try to take the money from the people of this province. I think the people of this province are very understanding people; they are very fair people. Those people who recognize the return they are getting for their dollar are people who are going to recognize that the taxes were necessary in order to meet those commitments.

I really find interesting some of the criticism we get, particularly from the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham). She was involved in education. She must understand the importance of it and the cost. When one looks at it, over the three years that this government has been in office some \$7 billion has been spent on capital structures. In fairness to the former government, probably part of that is as a result of growth. But when one talks about \$7 billion, I cannot even fathom that. There must have been a lot of inactivity over the 10 or 15 years that preceded the Liberal government's taking office.

When one looks at the fact that our health care system budget has been increased by \$1.2 billion in 1988-89, added to the total expenditure, it comes to \$12.7 billion. When one thinks that actually takes one third of the provincial budget, one has to recognize that shows the sensitivity of a government that cares about the health care of this province.

When one looks at the question of post-secondary education, which suffered dramatically, not just at the hands of the former government—

Mr. Cureatz: But your administration over the two years of minority government.

Mr. Callahan: —I point out to the member for Durham East, but also in tandem with the federal Conservative government in Ottawa. They joined hands with their brethren and cut back on the transfer payments to the province to deal with the question of secondary education. What does this government do?

Mr. Cureatz: They raise the taxes.

Mr. Callahan: No, they have a four-year capital plan of some \$440 million, an accessibility envelope of \$88 million and subsidies. Now here is a government that is not stagnant and does not just sort of set its budget at the beginning of the year; it actually responds to the problems that

are being raised by those people in the opposition and by the public.

With regard to the lack of housing for university students, some 5,000 student residence spaces have been provided for in this budget. Clearly, this is a government that is flexible enough to respond not just to the future plans, but also to those needs that arise during the course of the year. I suggest that is a very important thing.

We are looking at the north. Despite the comments in this House about the fact that the bill we are debating here does not go far enough, the fact is that for the first time, northern Ontario, which I think is a very special community for every member of this Legislature and one that has never been addressed by the former Conservative government—it had been given little patchwork quilt things, “Buy Minaki Lodge; do this, do that,” but never an overall scheme—is now in a situation where it is going to receive a heritage fund to try to approach the question of how to solve the problem.

I understand there are some concerns by the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel), but I think she has to admit that after all the years her father was here and all the times he chided the former Ontario Conservative government for its lack of action in northern Ontario, this is certainly a move in the right direction. If she did not admit that, that would not be being perfectly honest.

The other factor is that young people today are concerned about a number of things, at least the young people I run into, and I am sure it is probably prevalent among most young people. They are concerned about a job. This government has gone a long way—through the skills development program, the Futures program, educational upgrading and the co-op programs—to attempt to provide that opportunity.

Even more important than that, the thing I found with young people is that they are concerned about our environment. When you see a 51 per cent increase in funds allocated to the environment, what does that tell you? Does that tell you that the former Conservative government was asleep at the switch in terms of environment or does it mean the environment has got so bad that we had to spend 51 per cent more?

1600

I suggest, maybe in fairness to them, that it might be a little bit of each, but I think the larger proportion is that this government, under the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley), has shown greater care for protecting the future of the

young people—my children, my children’s children and so on—instead of spoiling it and perhaps doing much of what they are doing in the United States. They are actually sacrificing the future, sacrificing the enjoyment, sacrificing what is really a heritage that has been given to us by God to protect and pass on to our descendants. In fact, what they are doing is raping it.

A 51 per cent increase in expenditure for the environment in itself demonstrates the sensitivity of this government. It also demonstrates the need for the taxes required to fund that.

Mr. Philip: Talk about Sunday closings, you obviously do not care about children.

Mr. Callahan: I hear the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) commenting. Obviously, he does not care about the environment. I suggest that child care—

Mr. Philip: You want their parents to work on Sundays.

Mr. Callahan: He voted against Bill 123, which was a bill that might have kept a couple of them alive, so he should keep his mouth closed.

In any event, child care is another area. I think all members would have to admit that the minister responsible for that portfolio is probably one of the most sensitive individuals. You can see his sensitivity when he is questioned by the opposition about what he is not doing.

Mr. Philip: Boy, will we quote you on that sleaze.

Mr. Callahan: That gentleman cares about what is going on—sometimes I wonder about the socialist party or the New Democratic Party, which always claims to be the protector of the poor, the impoverished and the others.

There was \$289 million to implement Ontario’s New Directions for Child Care. I suggest that again shows sensitivity. It also shows that this government and this Treasurer are prepared to be up front and say, “If you want these services, and we think they are important because of the future of Ontario, the future of our children, the future of our environment and the future of Ontario as a whole being competitive, we are going to have to charge you extra taxes.”

I have no difficulty in defending this budget whatsoever. I think the budget reflects money collected and well spent. I suggest it is a budget that will bring Ontario not just back to where we should be, because we have a way to go—we suffered from the past and we are now trying to recoup the losses we suffered from the inactivity of the former government—but it is also going to bring us into the future so that Ontario will

continue to be a wonderful province to live in, and one we can all be proud of.

The Acting Speaker: Does any honourable member wish to comment on the remarks made by the member for Brampton South?

Mr. Cureatz: Not wanting to miss the opportunity of making a comment or two to the honourable member about trying to defend, as I said earlier to the Treasurer, the indefensible, I will tell members that a Liberal government back-bencher has a lot of nerve standing up in his or her place and defending the budget.

I am going to look with great interest three years from now when the honourable member is canvassing door to door. I am sure he is going to say in his pamphlet: "I, Bob Callahan, brought you the tax increase of 1988. Please remember we did it for the good of the people of Ontario—seven cents to eight cents, an increase in personal tax, the grab on gasoline tax." I say to him I will look with great relish and glee as he squirms from door to door, trudging, head lower and lower, thinking in terms of that budget he tried to defend back on this day, May 19, 1988.

To think he has the gall to say the Minister of the Environment is taking such a leadership role, if you can believe it, on the environment. He is a big windbag. He is travelling around talking about acid rain, but as I have said in this House, let him start taking some responsibility in leadership and policy initiatives about landfill sites in the Golden Horseshoe.

Right now, Metro Toronto is looking at Durham East. They are all set to go with a major landfill site. Halton is shipping garbage to New York state. We have Peel crying what to do with its garbage. Durham region is crying what to do with its garbage. What do we hear from the Minister of the Environment? We hear gobbledygook about how he has done such a fine job.

I say to the honourable member nonsense; he has not convinced me one iota that the big tax grab was for environmental purposes.

Mrs. Cunningham: Because I received so much attention during the member's speech, I thank him very much. I must have made some impact on his thinking.

Mr. Cureatz: Well, don't hold your breath.

Mrs. Cunningham: I am now talking to the member for Brampton South (Mr. Callahan) It would take a lot? OK.

I would like to talk about the visionaries of the past whom he spoke about, and I am sure he was talking about the Progressive Conservative members of the government at the time, who built the

colleges and the universities of today. They were visionaries and I thank him for his compliments.

I would also like to refer to the signs at the entrances to subdivisions. I was very much a part of asking for those signs telling communities that, no, there would not be schools built in new subdivisions, because we were trying to fill empty spaces in the cores of municipalities. We believe in municipalities and we believe in keeping the cores of our cities alive and well. That is why we did not build new schools; we filled empty spaces first. It is called good planning.

I would also like to remind the member, as he talked about health care, the government does have a tremendous responsibility. We are in the time of an ageing society and therefore we are having to meet the needs of an older population that we are supporting so that people can live longer and more fulfilled lives. The government has that responsibility. It asked for it and it campaigned on it. People do not want to wait in the emergency wards of the past, as the member for Brampton South did. The Liberals promised them they would not have to. Do it. That is all I can say. I would not have made those promises if I had been one of them.

With regard to student residences, I have looked at the 5,000 spaces. They have been announced four times. I can hardly wait to see what they are.

Mr. Cureatz: Just four?

Mrs. Cunningham: The same 5,000 spaces.

On the retail sales tax, if the government had balanced its budget, if it had spent in the areas it promised it would spend in and it had not overspent in other areas, it would have balanced its budget.

The Acting Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mrs. Cunningham: It was the same amount of money as the sales tax—

The Acting Speaker: Order. Does any other honourable member wish to comment upon the remarks made by the member from Brampton South?

Mr. Cureatz: Well—

The Acting Speaker: The member has already commented and had two minutes in which to comment. Unless it is a point of order, would he please take his seat? Does any other honourable member wish to comment? If not, the member for Brampton South for two minutes.

Mr. Callahan: That has to be a record. Either it was a terrible speech or there is no one who really wants to comment.

I would like to say to the member for Durham East, as he is being congratulated by the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens)—for what, I do not know—that I am not afraid to go door to door. I think the people of my community know one thing, and I say it with pride. I have always called the shot as I felt it, if it was popular or unpopular and I intend to do the same thing in the next election, should I run. I can assure him that I will go door to door without any difficulty. If there are people in my community who feel that what I have said today is not up front, obviously, they will not vote for me.

I have always told it as it was, and I think that is exactly what our provincial Treasurer has done. I would suggest perhaps that is a lesson for the political world. I think perhaps people are expecting that you are going to say what you mean and do what you say and not worry about the consequences in the next election as to what you said in the Legislature, because if what you said in the Legislature is what you believe—and I think the people in my community understand that they needed these funds in order to cover the sins of the past Tory government—you have no difficulty in knocking on those doors. I would invite, right now, the member for Durham East and the member for London North, assuming they are running again in the next election, to come to Brampton South and knock on doors with me.

1610

Mr. Speaker: Before I recognize the next speaker, I would like to inform the members that we have a guest in the Speaker's gallery, the Honourable Ken Wright, member for the North-Western Province, Parliament of Victoria, Australia.

Please join me in welcoming him.

Mr. Philip: It is kind of appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we should have such a distinguished guest in our gallery at this point in time, because somewhere during my speech I am sure I will get around to dealing with some of the cost-saving measures, some of the efficiency measures that have been implemented by the Australian Labour government when it took over a government that was quite bankrupt and, indeed, had major deficits.

As our party's critic on government spending, I want to give some credit to the Australian government for how it has been able to reduce its deficit and, indeed, it has developed some ways of dealing with the problems of government mismanagement.

Before I deal with that, though, I would like to deal directly with some of the things specifically in this budget.

I guess one has to say that if one compares this budget with the previous government, one must have to say what a difference a majority government makes, what a difference an election makes. The House may remember the previous government's pre-election budget, the election budget that said the economy of Ontario is so strong, it is not necessary to raise any taxes; the economy of Ontario is so strong that we can reduce Ontario health insurance plan premiums or, indeed, eliminate them; the economy of Ontario is so strong that it is not necessary to make any kind of tax grab or tax increase.

The new government introduced by the majority Liberal government at Queen's Park is clearly much more conservative than any of the recent Conservative budgets that I have experienced as a member of this Legislature, and I am now in my fifth term—so for four terms, going on five.

If it is not a Conservative government in disguise, why would the Liberal Treasurer increase the most regressive of all possible taxes: namely, the sales tax? Why would the Treasurer have adjusted personal income tax so that a family of four earning \$40,000 per year will be paying more income tax next year while a family of four earning \$90,000 per year will be paying less?

If it is not a Conservative budget, why would this Liberal government have introduced a budget where about 30,000 Ontario corporations are legally allowed to avoid paying any income tax, thus costing Ontario about \$4 billion, while ordinary people are having their income taxes increased? What the present Liberal budget does is exacerbate an already reactionary and unfair tax system implemented by the federal Conservative government in Ottawa.

Allow me to provide the House with just one example of how unfair the present tax system is to middle-income residents of Ontario. In so doing, I will use the latest figures I can obtain: namely, the year 1986.

If we take an Ontario family of four with an income of \$21,700—which was then the poverty line—we see that the family paid \$900 in Ontario income tax and \$1,300 in federal income tax.

At the same time, Brascan, an Ontario-based corporation that had profits of \$136 million; Cadillac Fairview, which had a profit of \$58 million; Xerox, with a profit of \$59 million; and, indeed, even the Toronto Stock Exchange, with a

profit of \$6 million, paid absolutely no corporate income tax whatsoever.

The Mulroney Conservatives call this "tax reform." Now, this is the reform which the Treasurer of Ontario has endorsed, and he has simply increased the unfairness in the present tax system.

Perhaps I am not being completely correct in saying that the Treasurer of Ontario is a staunch supporter of the federal tax reform package. If one looks at his present budget, it appears he was unhappy that federal tax reform was going to decrease personal income revenue, and so he increased the provincial share from 50 per cent of the federal tax payable to 51 per cent this year and then to 52 per cent next year.

What is probably most objectionable is that the Treasurer has moved in on the most regressive form of taxation: namely, sales tax. It might be useful to point out—I will put this in perspective—that nearly 35 per cent of the total revenues in Canada are raised from taxes on goods and services, compared to only 17 per cent in the United States, a country usually thought to be more regressive in its tax system.

What is so astonishing about the Liberals using a sales tax increase as a way of raising revenue is the complete about-face they have taken on this issue. Just like their flip-flops on Sunday shopping, on beer in the grocery stores and on the elimination of Ontario health insurance plan premiums, the Liberals have done a complete turnabout on sales tax as a revenue producer.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker—and I was in the House at the time—when the Liberals, as the official opposition, rang the bells for three days, claiming that the Tories were introducing a regressive and completely unacceptable system of taxation by increasing sales tax. This is the same party that now is doing exactly the same thing.

Miss Martel: How times change.

Mr. Philip: Well, how times change, as my colleague says.

During the emergency debate on health care services only a few days ago, I pointed out some of the problems facing the Etobicoke General Hospital as a result of the promises that have been broken by this Liberal government. I pointed out that the government has broken promises to provide alternative care and that at the present time we have on any given day from 70 to 80 people occupying active treatment beds when more appropriate and, indeed, less expensive care facilities should be made available.

I want to carry on on that theme for just a minute. The Ontario Nurses' Association commissioned a study by Goldfarb Consultants in which the nurses expressed their concern about their workplace frustrations and how these frustrations will affect their futures in nursing.

You may recall, Mr. Speaker—and I know you were in the chair—when, during the emergency debate, I pointed out that in the emergency ward of the Etobicoke General we are losing qualified, highly professional nurses who have been with us for 12 to 15 years because they simply are getting burned out. Indeed, if we read the findings of the Ontario Nurses' Association study, we find that this is happening clean across the province, not just in Etobicoke General, not just in the Metro hospitals, but clean across the province as the result of this government's promises that are not being kept.

I would like to read just a couple of sentences from the ONA summary of its commissioned study. Here are the nurses in Ontario talking to this government:

"Ontario's health care system is in crisis. Of that there is no longer any doubt. Evidence of the crisis can be found in health care facilities throughout the province as reported almost daily by the news media."

Then they give some of the examples. We are familiar with the examples, because we in the official opposition, and indeed the Conservative Party as well, have been bringing out case after case of people who are suffering, who are not obtaining adequate treatment and who are losing their jobs because they cannot obtain the kind of treatment that is required to put them back into the workforce.

The Ontario Nurses' Association goes on to say:

"The real story is that for many nurses their much-beloved profession has become intolerable. Its opportunities for caring have vanished, and many nurses are refusing to work under increasingly unbearable conditions that do not allow them to give patients the full and proper care they need and deserve.... Nurses are required to endure working conditions that greatly reduce the amount of direct quality care that they can give to their patients. These conditions include too few support staff, excessive patient loads, increasing demands to perform non-nursing duties, poor work scheduling, etc."

It goes on to say:

"The basic result of this survey on ONA members is clear. A crisis of monumental

proportions looms ahead for Ontario's health care system unless corrective actions are taken now to stem a potentially serious loss of nurses from hospitals and other health care facilities across the province. Otherwise, what is now only an apparent nursing shortage will become a real nursing shortage with staggering implications for both the future quality of patient care and the general functioning of the health care system as a whole."

1620

I hope the Treasurer, the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) and other members will read that study, not just the summary and some of the key elements which I have outlined but the whole study. It is worth their understanding, because they can understand in a very concrete and statistical manner, in a very scientific manner, the very things that I understood when I toured the Etobicoke General Hospital and saw nurses having to feed as many as five or six chronic care patients on a floor, thereby not being able to devote as much time to those who require active treatment.

It is not as though there are not alternatives. If we look at our communities, we see that there are many groups of dedicated people out there who want to organize and provide alternatives to the present chronic care crisis that we have, the problem where we have people who are in active treatment centres who, in fact, would be more appropriately placed in other, less expensive centres where, indeed, they would receive better care in the sense that it would be care zeroed in to their particular need.

I received a letter from the board of directors of the Huntington's Disease Resource Centre, which submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Community and Social Services for a 30-bed community-living centre for persons in the middle stages of Huntington's disease. These people clearly would be more appropriately housed in that kind of situation.

St. Demetrius church, which is just south of my riding but serves many of the people in my riding, has proposed to build a facility that would certainly help remedy the situation at the Etobicoke General and other surrounding hospitals. I pointed out that the ministry promised a great number of beds to the northwest corner of Metro and, in fact, it has not delivered on those.

What we have, then, is a serious situation not only from the point of view of people who cannot get into the hospitals, because people are there who are occupying the active treatment beds who would be more appropriately placed in other

facilities, but also from the point of view of many of my seniors having to go long distances to visit spouses at facilities that are a long distance from where they live. We have seniors who are travelling on the bus to Parkdale or even to Scarborough to visit a spouse who may have had a stroke and, therefore, because of the shortage in Etobicoke, cannot obtain adequate care or chronic care or extended care in their own community.

We also have the situation where not only do seniors have to travel at considerable effort and costs to visit their spouses but this government charges away what little income those spouses have.

I would like to read members a letter from a constituent of mine. This particular person is talking about the copayments for chronic care patients. He says:

"The justification given when these charges were authorized was that the patient no longer had to maintain a home and so could afford these payments."

A hospital is not a home, by any stretch of the imagination, and the person with a spouse would still have to maintain a home as well as keep the spouse in the hospital.

What you have is a situation where the rationalization is that the person is in a facility and therefore does not have to have the costs and upkeep of a home. But, of course, if the person is married, then he still has to keep up the home. Furthermore, that spouse has additional travelling costs to visit the person in the particular facility he is in. There is no justification whatsoever for this. It is simply one more way in which this government is insensitive to the elderly or the disabled and the families of these people, who are already under stress.

I am pleased, as a member of Rexdale's community, but whether I was an MPP or not, I think I would still be pleased and probably would serve on the board of an organization called Central and Northern Etobicoke Home Support Services. CANES is an organization that supplies home support services to people in both northern and central Etobicoke.

We have a problem. Our problem is that while we have a waiting list of people who want these services, people whom we can keep in their own homes instead of their going into institutions if we provide adequate home support, we have a staffing problem. The staffing problem is fairly simple. We happen to pay about \$7.50 an hour. This compares to an average across the province of \$5.50, so we pay roughly \$2 an hour more than

most communities. But the problem is that, with our inadequate budgets, we are not providing any kind of additional pension benefits or other benefits that people can obtain by simply going into a factory up the street where they can get \$8, \$9, \$10 or maybe even \$12 an hour plus benefits.

So we have the situation where we take people who are well meaning, who are dedicated, who want to help the elderly and the disabled, who want to do work that many people in fact would find unpleasant at times, but they are faced with the problem that they also have families to feed. They also have responsibilities to their families.

As long as the average homemaker in Ontario is making only \$5.50 an hour, or even in my riding in Metro Toronto is making \$7.50 an hour, without any kind of adequate benefits, the person is naturally motivated to accept an easier job in a factory, where he knows that he will have steady hours and also a steady input into a pension plan and other benefits.

No wonder we have problems keeping staff. No wonder we also have additional costs of training staff, because the more people who change over, of course, the higher the costs are in terms of professional development. When we compare that \$5.50 an hour, or even the \$7.50 an hour that we at CANES are paying, to what Quebec homemakers make, we find that the homemakers there, who are government employees, make \$10.81 an hour. They also receive benefits. That is the difference between this province and our neighbouring province.

Let me say just a few more things about the homemaker program. Ever since announcing the integrated homemaker program in January 1986, the Liberals have been able to grab a lot of headlines with promises about providing community support service for seniors and the disabled. Now they are in the process of breaking all of these promises. When the Minister of Community and Social Services announced the integrated homemaker program in January 1986, he said:

"Independence and self-determination are two of the major attributes of the adult person. It is an important part of the government's mandate to help people to maintain these attributes.... All Ontarians have the right to play as full a part in community life as they can...and we in the ministry will help them to do so in any way that our mandate can allow."

Yet here in this House today, the same minister admitted that he had refused an application from one municipality for a very needed program of home care in that particular commu-

nity. When that minister announced the new sites for the program in October, he said, "The government of Ontario is committed to helping all of its citizens to remain as independent as possible for as long as possible, regardless of age or physical handicap."

During the 1987 election, the Premier issued a release entitled "The Ontario Liberal Government Commitment to Community Support for Seniors and Disabled People." The Premier is quoted in the release as saying: "Seniors and disabled people want to be independent and remain in their home communities.... We must provide the necessary supports to make this a reality."

Of course, that is not happening. Most centres that my colleagues and I have spoken with have not been adequately funded from the beginning. Funding constraints have caused cutbacks in the service and waiting lists. This will continue as long as we can expect, and we have been notified by the government to expect, only a 4.5 per cent increase over the 1987-88 budgets. What we have is a serious situation.

1630

Let me get back to the problem of what underfunding does to these programs. Let me read a letter from a woman who is employed as a homemaker in Etobicoke. She says: "I have been employed as a homemaker in Etobicoke for four months. I enjoy my work but I am convinced that without a substantial increase in wages, the quality of future homemakers will deteriorate. The quality of home care provided by this service is very high, is a necessary service to our community and will be in even greater demand in the future."

In the future, of course, Mr. Speaker, is when you and I are going to need that service, hopefully not for 20 or 30 years but you and I are talking about our future when we look at these services.

She goes on to say, "Our contribution to the health care system in keeping people out of nursing homes, hospitals, etc., should not be underrated." Then she says, "I believe we deserve a decent wage. I am asking for your help and I hope the situation will be addressed before there is a shortage of caring homemakers."

There is a shortage of homemakers now and we know that. If there were a turndown in the economy, maybe there would be some effect on that, but at the present time, in a North American hot economy, it is very difficult, indeed impossible, to ask people to work for wages that are far

below the market and expect people, no matter how dedicated, to stay in that profession.

One of the things about the budget that allows a great amount of laxity has to deal with some of the issues that perhaps have been of concern to us and that directly affect our constituents or some of the people in our ridings. I would like to deal with just a few of those items.

The minister will recall—indeed I think as a member of the opposition he was on my side and may indeed have made a similar speech—when he pointed out the current tax levy on shoes. One of my constituents writes: “Today it is hard to find a decent pair of shoes for under \$30. Do you think this tax levy should keep pace with inflation?”

If we look at the Ontario sales tax, the \$30 has not been subject to any kind of indexing under subsection 5(1-25) or regulation 903, section 1-8, which puts it at the price of \$30 for a pair of shoes under which you can be exempt from sales tax. Indeed, when we discuss the retail sales tax branch of the ministry, the level has not been changed for some time, nor was there any attempt by this Treasurer to look at some of those taxes that in fact are not taking inflation into account.

Similarly, we see a great number of inconsistencies in the policies of this government that are causing great concern to industries, workers and people in our ridings. Today, the minister had the audacity, the chutzpah, to actually say that he was concerned about highway safety. This is the same minister who is introducing what amounts to free trade legislation: deregulation of the trucking industry.

We know from experience what has happened in other jurisdictions; except perhaps in Britain, where a very strong trade union movement at the time of the deregulation managed to keep safety standards up. Generally speaking, if we look at the North American experience, deregulation, no matter what platitudes or what promises are made about safety, means a decrease in safety. We have seen this in the airline industry and we saw it in the trucking industry where the interstate trucking deregulation was put on.

I have a letter here from a constituent living on Panorama Court that deals with this. It is addressed to the Honourable Ed Fulton. It says:

“I recently learned that you have introduced a bill which would deregulate interprovincial trucking in Ontario. I am deeply concerned about this, as I have been an employee of a trucking company for 23 years. I am employed at Glengarry Transport Ltd. in Alexandria. From what I can see, Bill 88 will do wonders for people

employed in the American trucking industry, but it will do nothing for me and the people I work with.”

That is an employee talking, but I have talked to a number of the trucking-company executives and owners and in fact what I am told by a number of them is that their only alternative, if this reactionary legislation is brought in, is to buy an American trucking company, move their computer operations and their office operations to the United States and then simply operate out of the United States.

The reason is very simple. Despite all of the promises made by the Mulroney free-traders that they would get access to the American market for our trucking firms, they have failed. Out of all the American states, 42, including some of the more important ones from Canada's point of view, such as Michigan, are heavily regulated statewise. Therefore, as long as the state governments refuse to let our companies operate within their borders, members can see what kind of situation we are going to have through this deregulation introduced by the provincial Liberal government.

What we are going to have is American companies coming in, buying us out or undercutting our market, or indeed the opposite, which is already happening with one of the largest trucking companies in Ontario. It is simply packing up, moving to the United States and operating both in the United States and Canada, but at a loss of jobs to Ontario drivers and, more particularly, to the clerical operators, the administrators and people like that in the Ontario trucking companies.

Let me deal also with a topic that I have been working with through the Ombudsman. I think we have certainly one of the best ombudsmen in the world and we are going to deeply miss him. He is about to retire in June.

I am very concerned about the bureaucracy of certain tribunals in this province. The one that concerns me the most is the Ontario Labour Relations Board. Let me just give a couple of examples. In September 1984 there was an application by the Teamsters for certification of a union. The decision was not forthcoming until March 1988—September 1984 to March 1988. The employer is now saying he does not have a record of the employees who were in his employ at that time in September 1984, so we may well end up with another hearing further down the road.

I called, and indeed the Ombudsman called on my behalf after my supplying him with the

information, and said, "It is completely unacceptable to have a tribunal that wastes so much time in coming down with a decision." It is the old cliché, I guess, that has been used in this House so often: Justice delayed is justice denied. That is what is happening in the labour relations tribunal.

I understand that Hamilton Yellow Cab, which has been organized by the Retail Wholesale Union, has had a similar delay, although it is one year less. It is still waiting for a decision to be made.

I say to members it is not the role of a politician to interfere in the decision of a tribunal, but it is my role as a politician and as an elected representative to say if a tribunal's processes are inefficient or have completely broken down. I hope the Treasurer, who no doubt is paying close attention to my remarks, will at least tell the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) that these kinds of delays at that board are unacceptable, in the same way as the delays that we are experiencing in that other famous organization, the Workers' Compensation Board, under the same ministry, are not working.

1640

Allow me to make a few comments concerning efficiency in government. I have talked about the inefficiencies in some of the regulatory agencies. I have talked about some of the inconsistencies in regulatory legislation which this government has introduced. But let me say that it seems to me that we in the New Democratic Party have been saying over the years that Ontario Hydro was out of control. We have offered a number of solutions, not just on ways in which Ontario Hydro could be monitored but indeed on how other crown corporations could be made more accountable and more efficient.

We have said that the capital-expenditure program of Ontario Hydro was unacceptable and that if we were not careful it would bankrupt the province or create major problems for us. Now, once again, we see a \$528-million cost overrun by this crown corporation. We offered specific proposals and indeed showed how other jurisdictions had managed to keep tighter controls and tighter accountability on crown corporations. The Conservative government ignored them, and the Liberal Party promoted some of these ideas when it was in opposition. Now we see there is absolutely less accountability under this government than there was under the previous Conservative government.

Earlier today I questioned the Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. Elston). I

want to go through that particular instance in a minute, but let me say that the Chairman of Management Board, who is the minister responsible for the supervision of efficient management of all ministries in this province, must really be asked what he does. If you compare him with his counterpart in the federal Conservative government, or even in the previous federal Liberal government, you see a complete abdication of responsibility by the Chairman of Management Board as compared to his federal counterpart, the President of the Treasury Board.

At least if you go to Ottawa, you see that the President of the Treasury Board exercises some authority and has been able to bring about some cost reductions. These cost reductions through the Comptroller General of Canada, who reports directly to the Treasury Board, have had some major impacts on saving the taxpayers' money. It is not good enough, you see, to allow the standing committee on public accounts and the Provincial Auditor to deal with the wasting of money after the money has already been wasted. What you need are efficiencies within the government.

If we look at the Provincial Auditor's report for this year, the latest report, we see what he has to say about management by this Liberal government. I do not want to quote it all because it is fairly long, but he says:

"Most audit branches had defined their audit universe and had developed one-year and long-term plans. However, the number of audits actually completed was falling well short of plans.

"There had been a number of initiatives to upgrade the internal audit function, including the development of audit guides and audit-related training courses. However, there is still a general need to upgrade basic auditing skills.

"Working-paper files often did not comply with professional standards. It was often difficult or impossible to determine the nature and scope of the audit work performed.

"A systems-based audit approach was generally not utilized....

"A number of branches did not have an adequate system to effectively monitor and control staff time.

"In many instances, the performance of audit staff was not evaluated on a regular basis. Where staff appraisals were completed, they frequently did not assess audit-related performance criteria."

Indeed, and this I consider the most damning:

"There were four branches (ministries of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Education, Revenue and Treasury and Economics) where the work could generally be relied on."

Let's congratulate those four ministries, but one has to ask, where were the others? Why are the others so absolutely inefficient that they cannot, in this day and age, run an efficient management system, an efficient accountability system? Only today I pointed out, by my questions in the House, that this government manages not through a detailed management program, one that can predict what its costs are likely to be and ways in which it can cut back on unnecessary costs, but by crisis.

Over the years, I have pointed out to the minister that he had to bring in conflict-of-interest guidelines, legislation or regulations vis-à-vis senior civil servants. Yet today he tells me that in the light of a couple of recent cases where we have public servants, former deputy ministers, actually acting in an advocacy capacity before the very ministries they had charge of, that was perhaps inappropriate and he would look at it.

The federal government has not needed to look at it; it acted. The federal government has a system whereby this kind of behaviour is completely unacceptable.

What I must say to the government is, why does it have to wait until it has a cadaver, a horror case, before it decides to do anything? Surely there is a time when they can look and see what other countries are doing. They can say, "There are systems by which we can develop efficient management, and we have to enact these rules and regulations before the taxpayers lose millions of dollars as a result of the inefficiencies."

I had the privilege, on Monday, May 9, of being asked to deliver a paper on accountability before the Canadian Institute of Financial Management. One of the things I enjoyed there—in addition to having an opportunity to share some of the ideas that I have been promoting for the last five or six years, and that five or six years ago were considered radical and are now accepted in many jurisdictions—was that I had an opportunity to meet with other people from other countries and other jurisdictions and see some of their methodologies.

Indeed, if we look at what is happening, our public accounting professionals have developed the auditing methodologies. They have made great strides, but what we need now is the will of government to implement them.

We heard about some of the strides that were made when the Australian Labour government suddenly found itself—I do not know whether by surprise—put into power. Lo and behold, they had to face the problem of major deficits. We saw that a government that had will and that consulted with the employees and the people could in fact introduce workable systems, including sunset legislation that would abolish unnecessary programs. People will accept that, provided that the evaluation system is done in an objective way and there are objective criteria whereby these programs can be evaluated.

The Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet has not shown any leadership whatsoever and therefore we end up with the kinds of expenditures which some of us in the opposition, and indeed many of the people in the government party, certainly have reasons to question. I look at the Chairman of Management Board and it seems to me that the only thing he seems confident of is spending money.

Here is the minister who is responsible for trying to make sure that government is run more efficiently. We look at what is happening and he shows an increase of 43 per cent in his administrative costs over four years. This is the fellow who is supposed to be teaching everybody else and kind of acting as the overseer on every other ministry to ensure that there is value for money and that the taxpayers are not taken to the cleaners, so to speak.

1650

Here is the ministry that has increased by twice its administrative costs at twice the rate of inflation. Meanwhile, the Minister of Health, on the other hand, is saying: "Hospitals must be run efficiently. We are going to cut back." Heaven help those hospital administrators. They are the bad guys; they do not seem to know what they are doing. We are having patients waiting out in the emergency wards of hospitals, staying on stretchers for two or three days, while this government does not have the management skills to have some long-term planning and programs in effect to save the taxpayers money, money that can be reallocated to essential services such as our health care system.

Let me conclude on perhaps a more optimistic note. I see that in Canada today there is a real interest, as there is in the United States, in doing two things. One is in providing some essential services, but the other is that we recognize that in order to provide those essential services, we also have to run government more efficiently.

In Ontario, we have developed a standing committee on public accounts which, with all due modesty, I think is one of the best in Canada, certainly one of the two best in Canada. I see there are Liberal members who are applauding, and I think it is to their credit. Some of the Liberal back-benchers have contributed very well and have acted in a responsible way on the public accounts committee—all of them. When members see the report we will be tabling very soon on mental health services in Ontario, they will see that the committee is acting in a very nonpartisan way and a very dedicated way. I think that is true also of the federal public accounts committee.

I think we have an excellent Provincial Auditor in Ontario. Mr. Archer and his staff have performed a tremendously important job, not just for Ontario but in showing the way to other provincial auditors on ways in which a man can operate in a nonpartisan and highly efficient manner and develop an audit system which certainly is to be commended.

On a national level, we will be moving in Halifax towards developing a basic system, a bare minimum, if you want, of how public accounts committees should operate in order to save the taxpayers money. I think that will help not just this province but a number of other provinces where public accounts committees operate probably a lot less efficiently than we have been able to develop over the last several years.

There are also some promising things in terms of regulatory supervision. Some of the things that are happening in the standing committee on regulations and private bills are to be seriously looked at. If you see that government is becoming more and more complicated, it is all the more necessary to make sure there is some accountability of regulations, that regulations are constitutional, that they make sense and that the regulators, who are public servants, are not acting in violation of the wishes of parliament and are not acting in an arbitrary or indiscriminate manner. There are some positive things that will likely come out in that report.

The Provincial Auditor has recommended a number of ways in which the estimates system can become much more effective, and the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly will be bringing forth a very interesting paper with a number of parliamentary reforms advocated that I think will make government more accountable. It no longer makes sense to have an estimates system in which members go in with inadequate research for a very limited period of

time, and simply ask whatever question comes off the top of their heads or may have been suggested by a constituent, without an adequate understanding of where the money is projected to be spent and examining whether or not there are proper objectives set and proper evaluations in place.

It seems to me that the proposal of dealing with only six ministries in depth, rather than trying to cover the whole gamut every year, makes some sense and will lead to more efficiencies. What I think we have to develop is a system of oversight committees, of estimates committees, that deal with the problems of spending before that money is spent. If that is done, then we in the public accounts end of it, the end that says, "Oh, my goodness, look at what has happened," will probably have less to look at and will probably have fewer horror stories.

I think that the systems have been developed, that the theory is no longer a theory, that we now have enough case studies, that we now have enough research in the field, that we now have developed the processes to a stage where, while they may not be completely scientific, they are at least more scientific or more accurate than they have been in the past.

I urge this government not only to deal with the fun end, which is how much money we are going to spend, but also with how we can spend it more efficiently, how we can deal with the real problems. The only way to deal with the real problems is to cut back on the waste that has happened in some of the other areas.

With those words, Madam Speaker, I thank you for your attention and the attention of the members to some of my concerns about this budget and about the accountability process in Ontario.

Mr. Mahoney: I was not in the House during the entire speech, but I did see it on the monitor and I did see the last part of it here in the House.

I would actually like to echo some of the comments of the chairman of the standing committee on public accounts. I had an opportunity to travel with him and his committee to Ottawa and Washington to analyse the system of public accounts in both those communities. I think, clearly, we have one of the finest systems I have seen at any level of government.

We found numerous ways—the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip) will remember—of cutting the budget deficits and reducing the debt in Washington and Ottawa, and I guess our job is really to concentrate on doing it here. But when one sees how the systems are in place in

those other levels of government, most notably in Washington, the complexities are really rather incredible. It was a good experience for all members on all sides of the House on that committee to really have an opportunity to analyse how public accounts systems in the world are working effectively.

I would also add in a very serious way that I think it is a very nonpartisan committee and I think the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale does an excellent job chairing it. I was particularly impressed by the objectivity that was put forward by all members, the Liberal members as well as the members from his party and the Conservatives, in showing a real concern for coming up with new and creative ways to deal with the very serious accounting problems.

Under the leadership of Mr. Archer, I do agree fully with the chairman of the public accounts committee that we have a very fine, capable civil servant handling that department. It is an excellent committee, and I look forward to working with it again in the future.

Mr. Adams: I would also like to compliment the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale. I believe it is by ancient tradition that a member of the opposition chairs the public accounts committee. I am delighted that this government and this Legislature have followed that practice.

I too compliment the member on developing the use and organization of the public accounts committee in such an imaginative and disciplined way. As he said, this is an extremely important committee in terms of monitoring all aspects of government in Ontario.

I was particularly impressed as a new member to sit on that committee briefly and discover that we were looking, for example, into problems of acid precipitation. Normally, we would not relate public accounts to acid precipitation. Yet, clearly, acid precipitation controls involve enormous expense in Ontario, and the public accounts committee rightly looks at whether those funds have been properly expended. They did this, I thought, in an excellent and very efficient fashion.

The member for Etobicoke-Rexdale is also following through with ways in which the public accounts committee can check on recommendations that it makes. He is making good use of the subcommittees. He is making, as has been mentioned, very good use of the auditor to follow up on recommendations which have been made. As he said, this has to be done nowadays, as government is very complicated, in a very efficient and pointed fashion. He is doing that.

Last, I would like to mention the matter of auditing in this government, that I like the way we are moving to a controlled but decentralized audit system.

1700

Mr. Philip: It is a new experience, I guess, for me not to have members of the other parties attacking my speeches. I am glad the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney) missed perhaps the first part of my speech in which I was dealing with the specific contents of the budget. I would like to say that the Liberal government whip came to me and said, "We have a couple of members who are substituted on your committee and now they want to be part of the committee." I am sure he was probably talking about the member for Mississauga West and the member for Peterborough (Mr. Adams), who did serve temporarily on the committee.

I can say that perhaps the reason they want to be part of the committee is that they asked good questions, got satisfaction and results as a result of their participation. Maybe doing things well is the reason for wanting to be part of a team. I can only say to the member for Mississauga West and the member for Peterborough that notwithstanding the other excellent members presently sitting on the committee, I hope they will be able to join the public accounts committee at some future date because they did make a positive contribution.

Mr. Cousens: As to these good friends who are now really starting to compliment each other, maybe it is time for some reality to be brought to the House. That is why the people of Ontario elected at least 17 of us to keep the truth alive. I would like to comment on some of that thinking, in spite of the fact that for once I did agree with the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale about the quality of the contribution of all members of this House in the public accounts committee. That is for the record. Our party recognizes that is an important role of government and that is a role I would like to take today in responsible opposition.

There are major pitfalls to this budget. If one were to put them into three general groupings, number one has to do with the fact that the people of Ontario will have less money in their pockets this year than last; number two has to do with the fact that we are going to see inflation return to Ontario; and number three is that we are going to see businesses increasingly dissatisfied with their opportunity for growth and advancement in the economy, in the environment for the economy that has been created by this government.

Every person is touched by this budget, from the smallest child who has to spend some money on an item he wants to buy to a senior citizen and to everyone in between, because now, with that one per cent increase in the retail sales tax, every citizen of this province is going to be hit just a little bit more. So are people who are middle-income earners. They are going to be hurt because they will be paying more taxes.

Possibly one of the biggest crimes of this budget is the fact that Ontario is going to take back the money the federal government was going to give us through revisions to the whole tax system in Canada. It is tragic because we are talking about a country that needs to grow and continue to have the pioneering spirit. What this budget says is: "Oh, no, we are going to build a government and that is going to be the new model. That is going to be the fortress for this country and for this province." I disagree with that strongly.

The fact is that personal savings are decreasing in this province and the government's savings are increasing, yet it still runs a deficit. I am referring, in fact, to Business Conditions, a Woods Gordon economic bulletin. It said: "Last year, for example, the personal saving rate fell more than two percentage points to 9.3 per cent, its lowest level since the early 70s. At the same time, consumer credit outstanding grew 16 per cent in 1987, far outstripping the 6.5 per cent growth in after-tax income. The ratio of consumer debt to income exceeds the 1981 pre-recession level."

We are talking about fundamental indicators that describe the economy as it affects individual citizens in this province. It means individuals are greater in debt personally this year than they were last year. It means they do not have enough money in the bank when bad times come to be able to spend on them. It means they have gone and taken out more debt for themselves in order to keep on living.

I am concerned with the amount of money they are now putting into the government coffers rather than into their own coffers so that it can go back and continue to help the consumers of this province.

I am very concerned that this government has hurt the economy in a fundamental way by hitting every person where it hurts, and that is in the pocketbook. Every person in this province has less money this year than he had last year.

I would also like to touch upon the fact that it is inflationary. It is inflationary because of what we are doing by building a larger empire called

Queen's Park, including the government ministries, the additional staff, the additional people. You have more government overhead and the moment you have more government overhead, the taxpayers in this province have to fuel that with their money.

Let me just quote, if I may, from the Financial Times of April 25, 1988. It says: "In the three years since the Liberals came to power, provincial spending has increased by \$6 billion (a 31 per-cent rise), causing some economists to worry about the consequences of the economic slowdown that nearly everyone believes to be in the cards. ...DBRS President Walter Schroeder was only saying out loud what others have been thinking when he observed, 'They're spending like crazy.'"

This Liberal government is spending like crazy. One has just to start looking at some of the facts that are being tabled by economists and writers. Peter Cook in Report on Business in the Globe and Mail of Friday, March 4, said: "The reality is that the Peterson government is the least disciplined in the country and has pushed up spending at a rate of nearly 10 per cent a year for three years."

This is the kind of outrageous thing that is going to cause our party to vote against this budget, and I hope that what is being said in this budget speech will cause some of the Liberal back-benchers to rethink their positions.

I am quoting again from Peter Cook in Report on Business: "Properly calculated, the province's budget deficit after a six-year boom is more than \$2 billion. Its credit rating remains at the level to which it was reduced by Standard and Poor's rating agency of New York in 1985." In other words, in 1985, they drove our credit rating down, increasing our interest rates, and it continues to be at that low level.

"Provincial debt per person stands at \$5,835, compared with \$3,900 five years ago—proof of the way rising public revenues from a booming economy have been wasted by spendthrift politicians." I want to absent myself from being one of those spendthrifts and I will be talking more at length on that one. This is going to fuel inflation. It is going to bring our economy to a different kind of situation in the future. This is not the way to build for the future.

I received a letter today from a constituent who touches on my third point, that point being that business is not happy. An environment is being created by this government that is discouraging business. I would like to quote a few paragraphs from my constituent. He says:

"Our astute politicians continue to lay more and more responsibilities at the door of the small businessman. Our knees are buckling, Don, and soon we will be flat on our faces. There is absolutely no motivation any more to be in private business when the bureaucrats and civil servants are managing to push laws through the political system which put us in a position of just being another employee.

"One has to wonder if it is not better to get out of business, let your employees look for another job and go out and work for somebody else who can have all the headaches.

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"The provincial government, as I understand, is now looking at employer-sponsored disability pension, extended health care services, pension reforms and a new consumer protection code which will simply raise prices. The conundrum is that we all end up paying more for the service.

"It seems that I am complaining all the time now. I think this simply comes from my growing old. I believe it is my body rebelling emotionally to mismanagement by government."

He says in words what so many business people are thinking. I am gratified that he wrote to me. I will not mention his name publicly, but I can assure you he comes from Thornhill, in the great town of Markham, and is an indicator of the number of people I have talked to who have asked: "Why is it that this government hasn't done more for business? Why hasn't it created a climate and an environment for business to prosper and for business to grow and for the province to continue to understand that it isn't a free world, that there is a way of managing properly and fiscally responsibly?"

And so I come to the one word that describes this budget. It is simply a sad one. I want to take the letters in "sad" and just elaborate a little bit, because it underlines some of the concepts I have touched on in my initial beginning.

First of all, it is spendthrift. If there is anything that this government is doing, it is trying to slow down an overheated economy, and so what it is doing is putting money into more staff in the civil service in Ontario. Few people in this province realize that this budget will add an additional 2,626 more civil servants—2,626 additional employees being added to the great bureaucracy that has increased by 5,000 or more since the Premier came to power three years ago.

It took the Davis government six years to reduce the number of civil servants by 8,000, and yet in three years this government has increased it by over 5,000. I call that fiscal irresponsibility,

and I call it something that is discouraging to industry. After 1981-82, when the recession was on, business had to cut back and it had to operate smarter. It had to sort of take things to task. What this government has done instead is just added, added and added: adding to the cost of government; adding to the people who make up the government; and consequently mortgaging the future of this province.

Unfortunately, if they were delivering on the key promises that are important to this province rather than just building a huge bureaucracy, then there would be something to brag about. Instead, we are seeing waste, we are seeing a kind of spending that says to the people of Ontario: "This government doesn't care. As long as we can take your money, we're going to spend it."

I am very impressed at the action our caucus has taken. A letter was sent to the Premier yesterday from our critic for finance. We have tabled the largest number of questions in Orders and Notices in the Legislature in order to find out just what has happened to the moneys in the different ministries. We have asked the Premier to try to accelerate a response from those ministries, so that when we go into estimates we can have some answers to the very basic questions that we want to ask that have to do with budget allocation and the way ministries have overspent their funding.

If a government cannot come along and spend within the limits that it sets out within a budget, that is a serious erosion of the kind of trust people would have in government. We should be setting an example, not only of cutting back but also of living within our means once we have a budget struck. Even with this budget it will be very much like last year's; we will continue to overspend in a number of areas.

This budget is sad because it is spendthrift, and also because of the arrogance that underlies it.

The member for Carleton (Mr. Sterling) was raising the question about money for rape centres. The fact is there has not been that investment made to help protect women who have been attacked and who need help, even so there is enough spare change in the staff of the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) that we could afford to do that.

We are concerned about the arrogance of a Premier who is going to shove through this House the Sunday shopping legislation. He is using his power to give away the power to the municipalities, and yet breaking down something of the fundamental thinking that people

have had in this province for years as to what a day of rest, a pause day, is all about.

An arrogance exudes from the government seats that says: "We are going to do it our way. It doesn't matter what the opposition thinks. It doesn't matter what most of the people of the province think. It doesn't matter what the Association of Municipalities of Ontario thinks. It doesn't matter what the people of London North think." Those who are thinking are saying: "We don't like what David Peterson is doing right now. We want to come along and stand up for the family unit. We want to have something that we have had traditionally." When the people of London North had a chance to think out loud, they did it when they elected the member for London North (Mrs. Cunningham) just a few short weeks ago.

The people of Ontario do not like arrogance and they are not going to like it if the government continues to do it in such a way that it is hurting the very people who elected it. It is arrogant on housing, and I will go on at length in my remarks later about the failure of this government to live up to its promises. During the election campaign it said it would be building 102,000 affordable units by the end of 1989. Where are they? When are they coming? Where are they going to be built? The answers are not forthcoming. The answers we get from the Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) are deplorable.

When we had to come into this House and spend several days during the winter break to discuss the free trade agreement, it was another sign of the arrogance of this government. Some people forget it, but the fact is that this government had prejudged the free trade agreement long before it was in place and people had a chance to discuss it. It came along with a resolution in order to try to embarrass our Prime Minister when he was meeting with President Reagan. We had to come back in this House, again partly because of the inexperience of the government's own House leader, who had broken an agreement with the other House leaders—here was arrogance: "We're going to do it our way, and it doesn't matter what anyone else thinks."

The fact is that we in this party are prepared to sit and sit as long as we can have a chance to raise the points that are important and to raise these issues so the public knows they are being said. If they are said in Hansard and we have put it on the record, that is an important role we have.

As long as there is arrogance, this is a sad day for Ontario, and this budget is full of it. It is

spendthrift, it is arrogant and it is deficit-prone. If there was ever a budget that had a chance to get rid of the deficit, this was the one that could have done it. Good times are when you live within your means. You can plan for the future, you can store up for the future; but the fact is this government continues to carry a deficit.

I look at the report again—I am quoting from Woods Gordon, who had a comment on the Ontario budget—I would just like to quote a few words from it. They said in their commentary:

"The proposed \$839-million decline in the budgetary deficit to \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1988-89 from \$2.4 billion last year is a welcome development." I read that at the beginning because it is welcome to see that there is an effort by the government to bring down the deficit. However, the Woods Gordon report goes on to say:

"We remain concerned that the province continues to accumulate significant additional debt during a period of sustained, above-average growth. As a result, Ontario's public debt interest costs as a share of budgetary revenue remain well above the levels recorded at the beginning of the decade. In our view, the Treasurer will have to continue his deficit-cutting effort in future budgets in order to redress this problem."

We should not, categorically, have a deficit in times like these. What we are really doing is clouding the future, because the future will have to carry the cost of the things we are enjoying today.

It is a sad budget, and it is not a good budget for the riding of Markham or for York region either. I would like to touch upon some of the concerns that have to do with our community.

Interjection.

Mr. Cousens: The honourable member talks about Markham, as many others do. They ask, "What have you done for housing?" I will touch on that. There are many things we have done for it, but I have to tell members it has to be a co-operative venture between our communities and the province. It cannot be the kind of relationship where the province is coming along and saying "You have to do this, this and this," and does not do anything to help carry the cost.

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I have to suggest the number one concern to the people of our community is the construction of Highway 407. I would like to compliment my neighbour and friend, the member for York Centre (Mr. Sorbara), who has always been there fighting with me to get Highway 407 launched,

which we did last year just prior to the election campaign. We saw the shovels go in the ground and a little bit got started. Approximately \$25 million was invested last year in constructing Highway 407.

To build Highway 407 between Highway 404 and Highway 427 is going to take over \$650 million. At last year's rate of expenditure, it will take 25 years for us to have Highway 407 built. It is going to take 25 years for people to begin to enjoy the benefits of it. It is going to take 25 years to relieve some of the traffic congestion on both Highway 7 and Highway 401. Highway 407 is a major road that is needed in Ontario, not just for York region but for all the neighbouring areas and for tourism and for a host of reasons.

How much money is being invested in it? I have a question in Orders and Notices asking the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) to give us an indication of how much is going to be spent on Highway 407 this year and in future years, so we can get some indication. Is it still going to be 25 years before it is built? If that is the case, then this province should be doing something about it. The Minister of Transportation has a responsibility to see that it goes faster.

I am concerned as well about the transportation problems in York region with the use of GO Transit. Let us say at the beginning that GO Transit is one of the most efficient and best-run transit systems in North America. We know that and we are grateful for it, but why is it that the services are so much better on the east-west routes?

If you are coming from Oakville into Toronto or if you are coming from Oshawa into Toronto, you have service all day long. You have a consistent service and you are always able to pick a ride up and back. If you are coming through Markham, Unionville or Milliken, there is one train down in the morning and one train back at night. If you are coming from Richmond Hill through Thornhill-Langstaff, there are three trains down and three trains back each day. This is the same service that was launched in 1976 for the Richmond Hill-Thornhill line and it is the same service that was launched in 1981 for Markham, Unionville and Milliken.

Why then has this government not done something to address the needs of a growing population north of Steeles Avenue? Why have they not come along and put more trains on those lines? Meanwhile, the Don Valley Parkway is glutted. It is like a slow-moving parking lot. Why can they not have more trains? Why can they not

have more service? Why was there not something in this budget about it?

We are talking about an increased population that is going up by almost 30 per cent a year. It is an incredible growth that is going on in York region. We cannot have people moving up there and not provide the services for them. As provincial representatives we must do more to meet those needs. The rail lines are built. Why not have more service?

I am prepared to work with the Ministry of Transportation. I am prepared to work with anyone to help see that we address and resolve these problems; because transportation is important, not only to the people that want to move, to get to their job and get home from work, it is also important for commerce to get all the things that go on in business, to deliver the utensils, the computers, whatever it is you are doing. Right now, Highway 7 just does not work any more and we need to have far more investment in GO Transit and roads.

When we look at the costs of education, we are all concerned that education has to be a major priority because our children are our most important resource for the future of this province. I am pleased that the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) announced the capital allocations for new schools, as he did this year for both the York region public board and the York region separate board. We do not take it for granted. We cannot build the schools without the approval by the minister.

Yet the very money we are spending is the money of the taxpayers in York region. The province does not pay as much as it used to when it is talking about those schools. It comes from the taxpayers. All we have done is get the approval to go ahead and build the schools. We are glad to have them. We have enough new people that we need the schools, but the money really does not come from the province; it comes from the ratepayers in York region.

That touches upon a fundamental flaw in this government.

Sixty per cent of the education dollar is being picked up by the property owners, by the ratepayers around this province. The government of Ontario is passing that cost from itself to the local ratepayers and the local property owners. Why has there not been any attempt to look at the way in which the government should share the proper and full cost of education fairly, the way it was done when the large regional boards were introduced in 1969? At that time, the province paid 60 per cent of the costs and the local

ratepayers paid about 40 per cent. Gradually, year by year, the cost has been shifted to the local ratepayers.

I am telling members that those senior citizens who are on fixed incomes are having a difficult time paying the increased amount in taxes every year. There has to be a review of the costs of education and where the money is going to come from. It is wrong, absolutely wrong, that the government is continuing to burden the local ratepayers with the cost of all education the way it is.

It is also wrong that the government of Ontario does not allow emergency funding to be spent. Again, it is not the provincial money; it is local money in York region that would be spent. If we knew that next year, when there is going to be a surplus of students in different parts of the riding because of the extensive amount of growth that has taken place, we could build schools when we need to. If the York Region Roman Catholic Separate School Board knew in November that a large number of people had moved into a subdivision, it could start to get the architects, to get the land set aside and to get the contractor and could have a school built and ready for use 10 months later, so that the following September students who had been crowded into portables would have a chance to be in their own school.

We are talking about an area that is growing faster than probably any other area in North America; and it also includes my good friends from York region, who are also suffering this as a major problem. This government has to look at ways of responding to need when that need takes place. It is an emergency and not something you can look at frivolously. I am disgusted that some members in the House think it is frivolous or fun. It is not.

We are talking about children. They are our most important asset and anything we do should be in support of making sure that they have a good education. You just have to go and see it. When you go to St. Matthew school and some of these other places, you are talking about whole schools full of portables on mud, you are talking about libraries that do not exist—the books are in boxes—and you are talking about washrooms that really cannot be used even by the numbers that need them. So let's talk about education and let's put money where it should be and not just put it into more administration.

If the government is talking about a growth area, that area should not be sacrificed just because the government is saying, "Oh well, you've got lots of money up in York region." We

also have people coming in who are paying a full tax dollar and are not getting a full service, and that is of great concern to me.

I am worried about health care and the possibility that what is happening to the Riverside Hospital of Ottawa—where the province of Ontario has said, "They had a deficit this year and they had a deficit last year. Because of that, we are just not going to be able to do anything for them. They are going to have to cut back on services"—could happen to York Central Hospital.

I would like to go on record as saying that York Central Hospital is an excellent facility. I am talking about a hospital that serves the communities in a very good way. Their outpatient services are running at over 100 per cent. I know the maternity ward and many people who have gone to that hospital. You can go through the different services of that hospital one by one. They are superb.

Now I am worried. If York Central Hospital has a deficit that is anything like the one Riverside has had, could we see cutbacks at York Central Hospital this year? Is there any possibility that the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) is going to say, "You've got to live within your means"? That would be a failure to understand the growth that is going on in Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham, the service areas served by York Central Hospital. I am very concerned with the quality of care that our community must continue to have.

As critic for senior citizens' affairs, I would like to make a comment about the Minister without Portfolio responsible for senior citizens' affairs (Mrs. Wilson). I happen to think she is doing an outstanding job and would like to commend her for her dedication to seniors. She is committed and is indeed trying her best. I just wish that the ministries that are in support of senior citizens could somehow respond to her leadership, because she is certainly trying to do a job for seniors.

The problem we have is that there are places like Greenacres Home for the Aged in Newmarket, which is a Metropolitan Toronto home for the aged, that has over 57 beds empty. We are talking about waiting lists all across the province and the province is allowing that facility to go down in use before we get the new senior citizens' nursing home beds available in the region.

I have raised this point in the House before. I have raised it with the ministers responsible for it. There is just no excuse that the province will

treat its senior citizens in any way less than honourable.

We talk about people in York region who have spent three months trying to find a place in which to place a relative and they cannot find one until they get one some distance from home. At the same time, there are 57 empty beds in York region at Greenacres. That is just contemptible. Why can we not have some kind of transition plan to use those existing beds, to allow them to be used until the new ones are built?

This government will not do that. This government has refused to listen to the pleas and entreaties of the member for York North (Mr. Beer) and many others who have come along and said, "Let's do something about it."

I am concerned about the environment in York region. I do not think any of us can step away from the problems of the environment. It is a global issue when you are talking about the destruction of the ozone layer, the greenhouse effect that is taking place and the destruction of our Great Lakes and the oceans. If it is a global issue, people tend to think, "It is not my problem." I believe we should think globally and act locally. Anything we can do within our own home areas, within our own communities, should be encouraged to help make for a better environment.

Why is it we do not have some kind of encouragement from this province to encourage recycling? It would be another natural way for people to say: "Less waste to be burned and destroyed. We can recycle our paper, our bottles and our tin cans." It would reduce the amount of garbage by 15 per cent if we had a comprehensive recycling program in this province.

Mr. Furlong: Doesn't Markham have one?

Mr. Cousens: Markham does not have one, but Markham will probably have one by the end of this year and that is good news.

The province could be helping to encourage this kind of program, working with industry to find places that can use the paper, use the bottles and take the cans. We have to do our share. Every one of us has to do what he can to help recycling and to help the environment. Every one of us has to do what he can to maintain the greenbelts, the green areas and the parklands.

This province comes along and thinks it will take the Rouge Valley and destroy part of that. They have 20 acres they are considering using for housing. This government thinks the people of Scarborough or Markham are going to sit down idly while it comes along and takes away a

natural resource, never to be replaced, and puts housing on it.

Here is the problem: here I am the Housing critic saying we need houses, but I am saying on the other hand that we do not need to jeopardize our natural environment at the same time. I am saying I want my cake and I want to eat it too. I am saying we have to protect the environment. There is a sense of responsibility to the environment and there is a sense of responsibility for housing, but do not come along and destroy natural areas that can never be brought back.

It was the Davis government years ago that began to see what was happening in the Niagara Peninsula and did something about it. May this government not go down in history as the one that destroyed the Rouge Valley.

This government has a chance to do something about Uplands Golf and Country Club. I am proud of the way the people of Thornhill and Vaughan have worked to preserve historic Uplands and the way they have worked with the council of Vaughan to get some funding to help retain part of Uplands. It has been an excellent example of the community working with the town council to make something happen.

Where has the province been when people have come to the Ministry of Natural Resources or to some other agency, especially starting with the Premier, for help to preserve Uplands? There has been no help to date from this government to preserve Uplands, and the people of south York region are concerned because we know the value of greenbelts; we know the importance of maintaining our heritage; we know the importance of maintaining farm and agricultural lands; and we know it is not going to happen unless we have a commitment to make it happen.

When a government comes along and just allows the destruction of forests and greenbelts haphazardly, as could happen with the Rouge Valley and Uplands, this in itself is something that is a crisis all of us should be alarmed about and all of us should make a commitment to fight for.

There is so much that is happening in south York region when it comes to environment. We happen to have one of the largest dumps. Keele Valley dump is where Metropolitan Toronto gets rid of its garbage in Vaughan and lots of things are being thrown into that dump that should not be there.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: No, that is not true, Don. Come on.

Mr. Cousens: Well, it is and the fact is that we are seeing garbage that is coming from the Lester B. Pearson International Airport.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: That is not happening, Don.

Mr. Cousens: It did happen and the member knows full well it happened. The fact is that we have a dump that is not being properly supervised. It is going to be filled up before we know what is going to happen. There are rumours that they are thinking of opening up another dump in another part of south York region. I am just saying that this province has to begin to take far more seriously the whole garbage issue of the province of Ontario, and should not just be throwing it off to a municipality and saying: "Hey, Toronto, solve your problem. York region, solve your problem. Tiny Township, solve your problem." The province should be involved in protecting the environment for the long term.

I am very fortunate that I live in a community of Markham that continues to try to work together with this government. I can make the commitment that I personally will do everything I can to work in a positive way with all ministers responsible for serving the communities. I have to say the attitude now is not one of co-operation and trust. I have a fear this government has a sense that, "We're going to do it our way," arrogantly, and not do it in a consensus-building co-operative venture.

I would like to comment if I could for a few moments on the housing budget. When you think of what has happened in housing and what has not happened, there are a number of points I would like to table. In fact, the 1988 budget verifies the dire need for a definitive housing policy that is workable and underscores the need, not just for a significant increase in housing starts, but moreover a major increase in completions, all of which are lacking in this new budget. The Treasurer's budget indicates that at least 110,000 new residents moved to Ontario in 1987.

While adding strength to the economy, this upsurge in migration puts an indelible, severe strain on the rental and housing market. The bottom line is this: in spite of new moneys allocated, very little and certainly not nearly enough housing is being provided and the impact of this strain is that no one can buy a home. Given the tremendous influx of people into Ontario and realizing that at least 50,000 people move into Toronto every year, Toronto will become home for at the very least 250,000 new people in five years' time.

The government's announcement that it will now encourage the building of 30,000 nonprofit

units in the next three to five years is really a minute drop in the bucket. It will not come anywhere near solving the serious and severe housing crisis. In his budget, the Treasurer says that housing is not just government responsibility, but that the private sector must also do its part in meeting affordable housing needs. If this is what the government really means and what Ontario needs, why does the government not consider adjusting the rent control regime to encourage private rental and private housing starts?

This budget deals only with nonprofit and assisted housing, but shamefully enough gives builders and developers no incentive whatsoever to build. The only sector the Liberals are encouraging is the nonprofit sector. The government is not addressing its responsibility to encourage the private sector and is in fact thwarting any private sector efforts to increase the housing supply in Ontario.

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Numerous provinces, including Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick and now Quebec, have been problem-free without restrictive rent controls. We can learn from them. Our chronically depressed rental units in Toronto are due to oppressive rent controls. These buildings have not been changing with the market. Their quality, as a result, is very low, and in many instances akin to an extremely poor, underdeveloped country, which Canada is not. Canada has always prided itself on being a country with a high standard of living, but the housing catastrophe is closing in upon us, and the Liberal government policies are not helping any. By focusing on the nonprofit sector and actually taking over the housing industry, the Liberal government is operating as a completely socialist state. This does not make sense, as this is not the New Democratic Party but the Liberal Party.

The government has the audacity to get itself into a business it really does not know. Why not let those qualified in the private sector, the builders and the contractors who know the housing business, do their job? By ignoring the private sector, which should be encouraged to take part in rental housing, the government is paving the way for people of all income levels to depend on some form of subsidization. This trend will only add to the friction and headaches the Ministry of Housing is now experiencing and is a backward method that is shortsighted. It is not a solution to the affordability-and-supply crisis. Subsidies are a knee-jerk reaction and a Band-Aid solution, a type of policy the Minister

of Housing is now famous for. A policy that covers up is not a cure.

With regard to nonprofit housing in the new Liberal budget, the government indicates that it will provide an additional \$210 million to support the operation of nonprofit rental units, which will mean up to 70 per cent of those will be available on a rent geared-to-income basis. What about the other 30 per cent? Why not serve all those who have a need, if that is what it is talking about?

In the Ministry of Housing report it states that \$10 billion of work in renovation is required to bring all buildings in Ontario up to date to acceptable building standards.

As to borrowing funds from the Canada pension plan for the government's proposed housing development fund, consider the argument of the Premier four years ago when he took a definitive stand in principle against borrowing from the Canada pension plan and argued that borrowing money at below market rates through the Canada pension plan corrupts government mentality. Now he is doing it.

By far the biggest scam of all is the Ontario home ownership savings plan, which is so minuscule a savings and so craftily conceived that it is highly doubtful that anyone could look to it for realistic help in purchasing a home.

It is obvious to those who live in Metro and centres such as London, Kitchener-Waterloo and others, that saving money is a hardship enough for the well-off but a virtual impossibility for the low- to middle-income earner. To top it all off, this plan is simply a tax credit which, for a person who earns \$20,000, amounts to only \$500 at most.

If the government wants to show real concern for housing, the money from land transfer taxes should go towards the housing development fund. At least \$500 million from these taxes could be used to build affordable housing and also create a greater supply of land.

I have the figures from the government on how much money was taken from York region through the Ontario land transfer tax. Last year alone it was \$63 million, up from \$12 million in 1984-85—a five-fold increase.

I know that others want to participate in this debate. I am concerned that this government has failed to meet the needs of this province. It has failed to meet the needs of those who want to buy a home. It has failed to meet the needs of those who want to build a business. It has failed to meet the needs of those people who want to save some money. It has failed. Because of that, I am not

going to support this when it comes to a vote in this House. I will vote against it, as will the Progressive Conservative Party.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I really cannot resist making at least a couple of comments on the speech of my friend the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens). He and I, of course, work together in York region, and we work well side by side. As usual, he is articulate and eloquent, probably even more articulate and eloquent than he was in his former profession of preaching from the pulpit.

As I listen to my friend from Markham, when I listen to him talking about the environment, when I listen to him talking about the importance of education and when I listen to him talking about the needs of a growing region, I think sometimes that my friend from Markham is a closet Liberal who simply did not get the Liberal nomination in the constituency that he represents. But there is one fatal flaw, and that is inconsistency.

My friend from Markham talks about all of the things we must do in York region. He talked about Highway 407. He talked about the fact that we do not have enough transportation. He did not mention the fact that in our own region we still have a lot of work to do on providing the social service facilities and the community facilities that a growing region like Markham and York region, my own communities of Richmond Hill and Vaughan, are desperately in need of, and we are on an agenda to do those.

But now, the point of inconsistency: my friend from Markham says we need to do all these things, and he says at the same time that we should, as a government, spend a lot less and have one singular goal, and that is to balance the budget. That is what sets him apart. That is the main theme of his speech, inconsistency, and that is why my friend from Markham—

Hon. Mr. Conway: I believe they call that sucking and blowing at the same time.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The government House leader calls it "sucking and blowing." Perhaps that is it, but I think that points out why he is in the opposition in that party, while really he belongs over here with the government and this party.

Mr. Beer: I would like to join with my fellow York region colleagues in this debate and to agree with the Minister of Labour that we would be delighted to have the member for Markham come this way and join us, because we know that, among all other things, he is a very fine fellow and I think would fit in very well.

I would just like to comment on several things that he mentioned in his speech, because I think there are some hopeful signs, perhaps more hopeful than he would want to indicate.

First of all, in terms of housing, I think all the reports that, certainly I have been getting back from the various meetings the Premier and the Minister of Housing have been having with the regional chairs and with the mayors of the different municipalities, indicate that there is definitely a spirit of co-operation; that what the Premier and the minister have put forward is that we want to work together with those municipalities in providing the affordable housing that we require; that this is the message that is coming from those meetings; and that some of the structures that are being changed to ensure that we can cut through lots of the red tape and get the kind of housing we need are going forward. I think that is positive.

Second, in terms of the hospitals, York Central and York County, I think we all agree that those are two fine hospitals and we want to see them flourish, but we also recognize that in terms of the process that is under way they have projected a deficit. In the case of York Central, they have sat down with the ministry and they are working out a way to resolve that problem, and York County is going to be doing the same thing in a week or so. I think it is through that co-operative spirit that we will be able to find the solution. Most important—and I know the member joins me in this—we need a district health council in York region and we all want to work towards that end.

Finally, I would commend the article in the Newmarket Era of yesterday about Greenacres Home for the Aged. I think we are going to see some good things happen in the next week or so.

Mr. Campbell: I am really concerned about the member's attitude, because earlier in the speech the member for Markham talked about increased costs. On some of the ministries that were mentioned by the leader of the third party, and I expect that is what the member for Markham is dealing with when he speaks about that, the leader of the third party was quoted as saying that this is not money going to programs or capital projects but indeed going to support the bureaucracy of an increasingly bloated government.

I know the gentleman is an honourable man, but I sort of question the attitude over there, preventing those much-needed jobs going to northern Ontario. It is not a bloated, increased bureaucracy, it is the moving of those jobs to

where they properly should be. The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is moving to Sudbury and other ministries moving to other parts.

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It is coincidental that some of the costs that have been outlined or highlighted by my friends across the way have been dealing with the ministries that are making those very valuable moves to provide impetus in the northern Ontario economy, as they can share with the southern Ontario economy. I would point out that that kind of statement only inflames and highlights the performance of the previous government in not dealing properly with the problems of northern Ontario.

Mr. Mahoney: I would like to take a little different tack. With all due respect, I am sure the member is an honourable gentleman. We are already pretty crowded over here so we do not need him at the present time.

The other thing, of course, is that we all know that there will be another Liberal in the House once the by-election for Welland-Thorold takes place, pending the recent announcement of the retirement of that great member of this House. So we have plenty of members here to take care of things.

I too find some interesting aspects in the inconsistency, not only from the member but also from his party. I can recall over the years, in my nine years as a municipal representative in Mississauga and Peel, coming down to the Bill Davis government in the year of Dr. Bette Stephenson, the Minister of Education, and saying: "Should we be releasing more land for development in our city because we are concerned about schools?"

I can recall Dr. Bette Stephenson, in a meeting down here at Queen's Park, telling us: "No one in Peel has gone to school in a tent. There is nothing to worry about. Go ahead and release the land, and we will make sure the money is there." It almost seems like no one was looking too far into the future in those days; under the rule of the member's party, and we have wound up with a serious, serious problem on our hands in my community and in the member's community that he referred to in education.

I hear the member criticizing education, and yet his overall community received \$111 million in grants this year for capital purposes. I do not have the exact figure, but maybe the member can tell me. I understand that Markham received the lion's share of the education grants that went into York region.

Here is a government that has, indeed, recognized the shortcomings of past governments, the lack of long-range planning, the lack of vision, and we have to react with a budget to try to resolve the mistakes made by former ministers under the member's party.

Mr. Cousens: I am grateful that other honourable members were participating and responding to my comments.

I guess the problem with a Conservative is that when the member for York Centre calls one inconsistent, as did some of the others, it just so happens that we have a philosophical base from which we operate that says we believe in a progressive social policy and a conservative economic principle. We also believe in putting the family number one. So when we put those three things together, there are times when we have to do a little pushing and pulling.

The underlying concern that I have as a politician is that we serve the people of Ontario. The fact is that the people in York region, because of the efforts of myself and the other members in York region, have been very successful in fighting for our community. We need to continue to do that but we also have to fight for the principle of fiscal responsibility in the government. I do not think the two things are inconsistent. On the one hand, I am looking for resources and help for a growing community and, on the other hand, I am saying the government has to control its expenditures and its costs.

I would not for a moment do anything to hurt northern Ontario, as the member for Sudbury (Mr. Campbell) has alluded to. I think we all recognize that there are needs in the north and in eastern Ontario, and when we are elected to this House, we are to serve all the province. But I believe it starts with having a good home, a good home here. This House has to be fiscally responsible itself in order to set the example, to maintain the economy and to build an environment that is going to help this province to be strong.

I believe we are on the way to doing many good things. I am pleased to have the support of this government for my region. I know there are things that need to be done to do it better but, to

start with, we have to have our own House in order, and here at Queen's Park it is not. We cannot live beyond our means the way this House does. We have to be fiscally responsible right from day one.

On motion by Mr. Reycraft, the debate was adjourned.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Just before I wish all of the honourable members a good Victoria Day weekend, I want to state to the House that, pursuant to standing order 13, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

The House will not meet on Monday, May 23, Victoria Day. I see disappointment on the faces of several members.

On Tuesday, May 24, we will consider second reading of Bill 107, Child and Family Services Amendment Act, followed by, if time permits, second reading of Bill 5, Proceedings Against the Crown Amendment Act; Bill 6, Execution Amendment Act; Bill 7, International Commercial Arbitration Act; Bill 90, International Sale of Goods Act; Bill 98, Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Amendment Act, and Bill 132, Mining Amendment Act.

On Wednesday, May 25, we will continue with second reading, followed by committee of the whole House, on Bill 116, the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Act. If there is any time remaining, we will consider legislation not completed on Tuesday.

On Thursday, May 26, in the morning, the House will consider private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Don Mills (Mr. Velshi) and the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden). In the afternoon, we will deal with government notice of motion 10, followed by the supply bill to be introduced by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon).

That is the business of the House for next week. Now, on behalf of the government House leader to all members, we should all have a very good Victoria Day weekend.

The House adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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|---|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
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 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
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 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
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 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
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 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
|---|--|

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 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
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 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
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 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
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 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
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 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
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 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
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Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
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 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
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 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
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 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
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 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
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No. 67

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Tuesday, May 24, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, May 24, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Reville: We have had an opportunity recently in the House to find out how much too far the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) went. A number of the petitions actually were returned with letters appended. One such gentleman in Scarborough writes:

"This latest tax grab is simply another example of government imposing their will on the people rather than governing according to the will of the people. Until recently, most people have been in a state of apathy regarding government, but times are changing quickly. We have had enough. The anger you encountered the other day at Queen's Park was merely a reflection of the growing attitude in this country."

The gentleman goes on to say: "At a time when we should be getting something back, you jack up taxes even higher. Well, enough is enough. Crunch time is fast approaching. Remember the California revolt a few years ago? When crunch time comes in a democratic free society, whose head do you think it will come down on? Yours or ours? We may all end up being hurt because of your fiscal irresponsibility, but you are the one who will end up on his"—expletive deleted—"on the outside looking in."

Mr. Speaker, there are thousands of letters in that vein. We hope to have a chance to share some of them with you and the House.

Mr. Harris: Another round of Liberal tax increases comes into effect tonight, and it is all part of the price we must pay for the obscene spending spree of the Premier (Mr. Peterson). Government spending has increased by \$11.4 billion since he took office three years ago, about double the rate of the federal increase in spending. That is more than \$31 million a day, \$1.3 million an hour, \$22,000 a minute. These are the increases, close to triple the rate of inflation.

Despite "spending like a bunch of drunken sailors"—Toronto Star—in fact, probably because of it, this government has failed to meet

challenges in the fields of health, education and housing, but we have now added 9,400 civil servants since the government took office in 1985.

Does this sound like a record we have heard before? Yes. This is how Trudeau and the boys started in Ottawa. It led to bringing this country to its knees financially. It starts with massive, uncontrolled spending, and throwing money at problems instead of ideas. Throughout all the financial chaos that is being heaped on the taxpayers of Ontario, the Peterson administration has continually rejected any and all suggestions to control expenditures.

As taxpayers are hit again tonight, they should join with the over 100,000 people who have said, "Bob Nixon and David Peterson, you've gone too far."

BELL-NORTHERN RESEARCH LTD.

Mr. Chiarelli: Last week it was announced by Bell-Northern Research that it intends to hire 600 new people in the Ottawa area this year. This follows an impressive hiring spree of over 1,000 jobs last year and a massive expansion of what has become Canada's largest private research laboratory. In total, approximately 4,000 people work at BNR's nine locations in the Ottawa area, making it the second-largest private employer in the region, next to Bell Canada.

Combined with its parent company, Northern Telecom, this corporation has experienced an average annual growth rate of 15 per cent over the last 10 years. With such incredible growth statistics, it is no wonder that the recent Premier's Council report highlights Northern Telecom and BNR as a major success story in the telecommunications field, with a model corporate strategy for others to follow.

A major part of its success is due largely to the fact that fully 10 per cent of Northern Telecom's revenue goes into research and development. The recent budget includes provisions to assist industry through R and D incentives. The government strongly believes that success will come through joint efforts.

Northern Telecom has shown it can be done, a record that the Ottawa region and Ontario can be proud of.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I, too, would like to read to the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) and to the House some of the comments by people who responded to Garth Turner's call for an uprising on tax increases to let the Treasurer understand how angry people are. A letter to Mr. Turner states:

"Friday morning at work, we had to take one of our fellow workers to the hospital. He was having a nervous breakdown. Here's a man with a wife and two children. His wife can't work because of a heart ailment. He is worrying about losing his house because with one pay cheque coming in he can't keep up the payments on the mortgage and the car payments. We make less than \$300 take-home pay. He bought the house back in 1973 when things were a little better. Now with this new tax increase and the cost of living so high, a lot of people like him don't have a chance, including me. I'm so damned mad at these greedy politicians, I could cry. I think we would all be better off on welfare.

"Your sincerely,
"Ed Stanley."

There are many thousands of people in the lower middle class who feel that way about the way the government unnecessarily ripped them off this year.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVICE FOR THE DEAF

Mr. Pollock: I recently received a letter from a young lady named Jenny Lynch, a grade 8 student at Sir James Whitney School in Belleville, whose permanent residence is in my riding.

Jenny states: "I'm deaf. I would like to use a telephone the same as hearing kids. It costs a hearing person approximately \$33 for the telephone. It would cost me between \$245 and \$550 to buy a TDD"—telephone device system for the deaf—"so I can call my friends or relatives, make a doctor's or a dentist's appointment, call the police, fire or ambulance services."

Jenny cannot use the Bell Canada relay services without a TDD phone. Bell Canada operates a free special service to assist hearing-impaired people access voice-operated phones and vice versa. Special operators receive typed messages via a TDD transmitter and the information is transmitted by voice. A simple operation such as ordering a pizza or phoning a taxicab becomes possible for the deaf.

I believe the government should subsidize 75 per cent of the cost of a TDD phone the same way it does for hearing-aids. This is a fair and

reasonable request by Jenny on behalf of all deaf people.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Mr. Faubert: They say it takes two to tango, that two heads are better than one, that united we stand and divided we fall. Obviously, the federal government does not believe in this approach when it comes to housing. I was shocked when I read in a recent Toronto Star article that Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., an agency of the federal government, financed fewer new units of housing in Metro last year than it financed in 1981.

In addition, the federal government is selling off acres of valuable land in the Metro area, apparently without regard or concern over whether the land or the proceeds will be used for affordable housing.

1340

In contrast, this government took the initiative last year to declare a Housing First policy, whereby all surplus provincial lands are considered first as potential sites for affordable housing. Just recently, the province has made available over 90 acres of land for affordable housing. If deemed inappropriate, the lands are sold and the proceeds are put into a fund to build low-cost housing elsewhere. I understand that 2,500 units were created by this initiative alone last year.

I encourage the Conservative members opposite to ask their federal counterparts to follow the sensible and effective leadership demonstrated by this government's Minister of Housing (Ms. Hošek) and adopt a federal Housing First policy.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Reville: I have got lots more letters here about the situation that people find themselves in in Ontario and the difficulty they are going to have paying the outrageous taxes of the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon). Here is a person who writes, "How would you like to be in my father's shoes?"

He begins to worry about his own situation in the future: "How will I afford to live, buy a house, pay for the mortgage and taxes and still be able to feed myself and family? I think you are a very ignorant, self-centred person and you should realize what real life is all about. Oh, sure! It's easy for you who goes home every night, sits down to a candlelight dinner and has three turkeys or roast beefs on the table, and, mind you, two of them probably get thrown out 'cause you don't believe in leftovers.

"Come on! Wake up!"

Another person just sends in his pay slip, which is really instructive. The earnings and deductions are very clear. The chap managed to pay \$230.61 in deductions on one week's pay, ending up with a net of \$603.23. The implication is that the government already gets enough taxes from working people.

I think it is clear the Treasurer has gone too far.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Hon. Mr. Fulton: Earlier today, I released the provincial transportation study, Transportation Directions for the Greater Toronto Area. It represents the culmination of almost three years' work.

The study is the result of a process never before attempted in the greater Toronto area. It brought together planners, elected officials and transportation specialists from the regions of Peel, York, Durham and Metropolitan Toronto.

The study considered the maximum use of the great transportation investment made in these regions by all provincial taxpayers. It allowed planners from all regions to see at first hand the problems and opportunities confronting others in other regions.

It looked at fare integration, service co-ordination, rapid transit options, opportunities for GO Transit expansion and road and highway needs.

Because the statement dealt with these four regions and because it deals with existing technologies, I took the step of inviting my critics from the two opposition parties so that they could familiarize themselves with the details of the initiatives.

CROWN LIFE PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE DAY

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: Tomorrow is the sixth annual Crown Life Participation Challenge Day. That means millions of Canadians will be walking, jogging, skipping and stretching to promote physical fitness across the nation.

Because tomorrow is such a special day, I would like to issue a special challenge to my fellow members.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) will lead his second annual challenge to members of the House. He will lead a light, informal workout on the steps of the Ontario Legislature, starting at 8:30 a.m. tomorrow.

I appeal to my fellow members to join the Premier's challenge and to help ensure that this

year Toronto brings out more fitness buffs than Montreal.

A noble goal lies behind the friendly rivalry between the two cities. Here in Ontario, the goal is to encourage all citizens to adopt regular exercise habits, to spread the fitness revolution from Cornwall to Kenora and from Metropolitan Toronto to Moosonee.

One and a half million Ontarians in 68 communities participated in Challenge Day last year. I challenge all members to show up tomorrow morning to make sure that even more citizens take part in Canada's biggest mass-participation event. My staff and I will be there and I hope to see all my fellow members on the steps.

RESPONSES

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. B. Rae: I want to respond to the statement from the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton). To put it mildly, it is rather remarkable that a minister would have launched such an extensive exercise of review of reports of reviews of reports and come up with so little.

This part of the province is literally strangling in traffic. What the minister has proposed is to delay the major proposals that have come to him from the areas with respect to mass transportation. The answer of this government is to put off the most difficult and important decisions with respect to urban transportation until some time in the 1990s, just after every single major planning person has put forward a view which says the decisions have to be made now if Ontario is to invest in the future in terms of transportation.

It is incredible to me, when we are facing as serious a problem as we are facing in this community, that the very best the minister could do would be to say: "When it comes to the Sheppard line, we will see. When it comes to the Eglinton West rapid transit, we will see. When it comes to the developments in Mississauga, we will see."

I think it is fair to say that if we look, for example, at the Network 2011 report from the Toronto Transit Commission, which is before the minister, it produced some very specific priorities. These are priorities which were criticized by some in the regions, but I did not hear one of those critics say that none of the above should be done and that all the decisions should be put off until 1993.

This government has a massive majority. It has the ability and capacity to do virtually what it will. What we find is that when it comes to the

toughest decisions as to what its priorities are going to be and how it is going to invest in the future, what this government does is simply put it off, constantly put it off and delay.

The decision to choose which urban transportation line to go for will be no easier in 1993 than in 1988. The problems will be even more difficult. The traffic will be even greater. The length of time it takes to travel around will be even longer. The degree of planning which has taken place will be even more schizophrenic and absurd. The amount of concentration downtown will grow even further. The process of choking and strangulation, which we see in every major urban configuration in the world, will be part of Toronto's participation in a world-class society. And all this government says is, "Well, we want to keep our options open."

It is not good enough. It is not good enough for the government to produce a report in which it has a list of things, in which it says: "The following projects are committed, most of which are roads. The following projects are planned, but we have no idea how they are being planned or what it means when we say they are being planned. And we have another category, which is options being kept open."

The most difficult decisions are in the areas in which the government has simply kept its options open. I think it is fair to say this government has missed a historic opportunity to invest in its future. It has missed a historic opportunity to invest in a new generation of urban transportation in the greater Metropolitan area. It has missed the opportunity to take the tough decisions which need to be taken if we are to avoid the kind of traffic strangulation which has affected every major urban centre in the world and which is affecting Toronto and is visible, palpable and touchable for all of us to see and experience.

This government has missed the opportunity when it had the opportunity to do it. It will rue the day it decided in 1988 to put off to some unknown date the chance to do something about a problem which is going to get even worse by the 21st century.

1350

CROWN LIFE PARTICIPACTION CHALLENGE DAY

Mr. Farnan: As the Premier (Mr. Peterson) jogs on the front steps of the Legislature tomorrow, it is a good photo opportunity. It is a nice event. But I would like the government to remember the children at St. Vincent de Paul School who have no gym and who will not be

able to take part in recreational facilities. Our fitness programs in our schools demand to be addressed. I say to the government, while we can participate in this event, we should look at the real problems of fitness in our society and provide adequate funding for physical education in our schools.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: I could tell by the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae) that he was not all that thrilled with the report from the Ministry of Transportation, and we would like to share in his chagrin and his unhappiness. In fact, if we have as much progress in the next three years as we have had in the last three years, we will still be nowhere, because that is where we are at. There is nothing happening.

What we are seeing is no allocation of funds in a special way for the transportation problems of Metropolitan Toronto. This announcement is the gathering together of a series of other announcements, but there is no statement here of what the priorities are going to be. There are no priorities. We see a whole set of circumstances. The data are good. We all have to agree that we have problems. We know that. We just have to drive along Highway 401 and see that they are trying to do some reconstruction and they do not know how to handle that.

We know there are problems in trying to get the trucks in Ontario looked at. Ontario would not even participate with the United States in reviewing our truck services.

I do not see anything in here about the big problem next year when the domed stadium opens. There is no concept of how to get people in and out of that area.

We are talking about a failure of this government to really deal with the transportation issues and set priorities. The government has to do something and start with a stake in the ground that says, "Here is what we are going to do for the next short term and then the next short term."

What we are seeing here is a massive overall review with no specifics. What I would like to see are some details forthcoming from the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton). We would welcome his taking some of the time in this House to come forward with an action plan that tells us specifically what, how, when. We know why. All you have to do is live in Metropolitan Toronto to know you have a massive problem with transportation.

It is supposed to be a tourist mecca. I tell members, when the tourists get in here, they are

not going to be able to get out because of the road construction. It is high time this ministry began to do what we have asked it to do and what it is charged to do.

I cannot help but throw in a small word for Highway 407. I just have to mention that. The member for York Centre, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara), sitting beside the minister, should have more influence than he does, because I asked the question about Highway 407 over a month ago and there still is no answer.

We have concerns for other transportation systems, but I tell the minister to come on. He should not just come along and rehash the same old thing. He should come forward with an action plan, set some priorities and make it happen. He has the power. The Premier (Mr. Peterson) has 93 seats, including his own. There is something that could be done with this minister's seat. He is not doing it; he should get to work.

Mrs. Marland: I have in front of me a piece of paper that says, "Statement in the Legislature by the Honourable Ed Fulton, Minister of Transportation." I suggest respectfully that is the most blatant example of the Liberal government's nonstatements that we have had the privilege of hearing in the last three years.

I also hold up this map. This map is called Transportation Directions for the Greater Toronto Area. On it are three regional names—Peel, York and Durham; no other names, no other information. This map symbolizes what this statement and this report are all about—absolutely blank.

How is it that the people who face the problems of commuting from all three regions on a daily basis do not yet hear any response of concern from this government for a solution? I see, as my colleague the member for Markham (Mr. Cousens) has already mentioned, that if we go forward in the next three years the way we have in the past three years, we may well be back to the horse and buggy.

I would also like to suggest that there is a very basic element here; that is, there is a tremendous traffic problem in Metropolitan Toronto because of what feeds into Metropolitan Toronto. The fact is, until we look at the source within Peel, York and Durham, solve the traffic problems within those regions and encourage people to get out of their cars—because we are giving them additional GO service that means something, because we are going to build extended subway lines that will provide a service and encourage people to use those services—until we decide that

we are going to invest in a solution instead of just another report, we will never have that solution.

CROWN LIFE PARTICIPATION CHALLENGE DAY

Mr. McLean: While I welcome the Crown Life Participation Challenge Day, I only want to say that they should be starting at 7 or 7:30 a.m., not at 8:30 a.m. when we should be working. I will be up at seven. I will be ready.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. B. Rae: My question is for the Minister of Transportation. I would like to ask the minister, when he presented his report to the House today and when he presented it to the public today, why was he not up front and clear about the fact that he has rejected taking a decision with respect to the proposals on new urban rapid transit lines in the Metropolitan Toronto area?

Why was he not straight up front, saying, "We decided not to go ahead on Sheppard Avenue, not to go ahead on Eglinton Avenue, not to go ahead with respect to Mississauga"? Why bury that? Why not confront that directly and say, "This is what we have done and this is why we have decided to do it"?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I appreciate the Leader of the Opposition's kind words earlier. I hope that before the day is over he will read the report. What he is missing is the fact that we are providing, for the first time, provincial leadership in the expenditure of in excess of \$700 million a year around the four regions affected within the context of that report.

In the short term, we are going to implement increased rapid transit availability via the existing corridors, including connections in the city of York, which will give people out the member's way access to rapid transit and GO trains.

Mr. B. Rae: We can all look around at the various sites and say, "There is a new building going up in Weston and a new building going up here and there." That is not the issue.

What has been before the government for the past three years has been a major transformation in the nature of this region, the fact that planning is out of control, that it is more and more congested. There is too much in downtown Toronto and not enough outside. The minister has not addressed any of those problems or any of those issues in his report.

I make no apology for being critical of a government that is sitting on the biggest majority in Ontario history and has failed to take decisions

that are critical to the needs of our citizens in the 21st century. I think that is truly appalling.

The minister has the reports before him that have talked about the need for the Sheppard Avenue line, the need for the Eglinton Avenue West line and the need for the line in Mississauga. Why reject all three of those proposals?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think if the Leader of the Opposition were to take the trouble to read the report and read the presentation today, he would understand we are not rejecting; we are putting into place some short-term measures that can be worked on soon, increasing the capacity of the Yonge Street subway, affecting the busway in Mississauga, affecting the widening of the Gardiner Expressway, the extension of Front Street, to name a few. There are a number of initiatives that will be not only commenced but completed.

I think the Leader of the Opposition misses the point of what has been going on and the lack of co-ordinated planning within the 22 municipalities that make up those four regions. For the first time in the past 50 years, the provincial government has managed to bring all these people together to deal with their respective priorities. That is what is before the House.

Mr. B. Rae: If the minister regards bringing everybody together in a three-year planning process and then producing commuter parking lots as his contribution to urban planning, I am sorry but I do not regard that as an advance. I do not regard that as leadership. I do not think the minister is serving the needs of our citizens in the 1990s and into the 21st century who will look to this date in 1988 and say, "Here was a government that dropped the ball."

Why does the minister not have at least the straightforwardness to say, "We are putting off a decision on these three plans because we cannot decide, because the decisions are difficult and because it will take some courage, vision and foresight to make a decision with respect to building these new lines"? Why at least not do that instead of simply producing a commuter parking lot and saying, "Look, we have done our best"?

1400

Hon. Mr. Fulton: I think this government has shown a great deal of courage and foresight in a number of initiatives, not the least of which is transportation. The member sits there and criticizes government expenses, but he does not look at what we are able to do as a lower-cost option to provide for transportation throughout the greater Metropolitan Toronto area.

What he fails to recognize is the leadership needed for interregional transportation around the four regions. We are not simply building a parking lot. I would not expect the member to know about that because he is chauffeured back and forth. That is not what we are talking about and I suggest he read the report in detail.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I would like to introduce the Minister of Labour to a member of the public who has a particular problem. I would like the minister to comment on it and to respond to it.

Mr. Giuseppe Ianuzzi is in the gallery this afternoon. He is a worker for some 30 years at the Toronto Refiners and Smelters plant in Toronto. Mr. Ianuzzi has been suffering from lead poisoning since 1984. He was on a workers' compensation temporary benefits plan from that time until June 6 of this year, at which point he is going to be cut off with no pension, with no benefits, with nothing.

I would like to ask the minister how that is possible, given that Mr. Ianuzzi has blood levels of 60 micrograms of lead in each decilitre of blood, which is four times the acceptable level. Why would a worker with four times the acceptable level of lead in his blood not be given a pension under the Workers' Compensation Act?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I think you know, Mr. Speaker, and the Leader of the Opposition knows that it would be singularly inappropriate to try Mr. Ianuzzi's case here in this House. My friend the Leader of the Opposition has provided a few details for me on Mr. Ianuzzi's case. Obviously, if he is really interested in my looking into the case, he would suggest that to me, I would get the details he has, have the case looked into in further detail and then give him a more complete response.

Mr. B. Rae: If we had a workers' compensation system that worked in this province, it would not be necessary to bring each case up to the minister in the House, but that is what we have to do because we have too many workers who are being turned down.

I would like to ask the minister whether he is aware that the Workers' Compensation Board has no overall policy with respect to lead poisoning and permanent pensions, that the board contends the problem with lead poisoning goes away when the worker is removed from the environment and that the board has no plans whatsoever to give Mr. Ianuzzi a permanent pension because it alleges that if he is away from

the workplace, his blood level should be going down when that, palpably and clearly, is not the case.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Once again, I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that it is inappropriate to try to resolve Mr. Ianuzzi's case here, but he raises the issue of whether or not there is a policy with respect to lead poisoning in the Workers' Compensation Board. I tell my friend the Leader of the Opposition, although he knows it already, that it would be and is within the jurisdiction of the board to determine whether or not lead poisoning in the circumstances similar to the circumstances of Mr. Ianuzzi represent a compensable injury which would provide a case for a permanent pension.

I tell him as well that where the workers' compensation system must go is towards a system where we are providing pensions for those whose experience in the workplace has reduced their ability to earn, and providing a system where we are assisting to the greatest extent possible every worker who is a claimant before the board to reintegrate himself or herself back in the workplace at the same or, indeed, at earning levels above what was the case pre-injury.

Mr. B. Rae: I am bringing cases up to the minister now because I am telling him that the workers' compensation system is not working, that more workers are being cut off than ever before, that the rehabilitation plan is not working and that there is a crying need for some justice in the workplace which just is not there.

Again, I would like to ask the minister, what does he intend to do personally about a situation where not only is Mr. Ianuzzi being cut off, but where there are more and more workers who are being denied benefits by the Workers' Compensation Board because of increasing pressure from employers and where there is no plan in place to deal either with rehabilitation and reintegration into the workforce or with problems of long-term disability like the one suffered by Mr. Ianuzzi?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: If the Leader of the Opposition is suggesting in an indirect way through his question that a legislative agenda that would bring about some very substantial reforms to the workers' compensation system is appropriate, in that respect I would agree.

I would not like him to base his case on an allegation that the workers' compensation system is, as a whole, not working. The fact is that the workers' compensation system deals with more than 400,000 claims on an annual basis and, by and large, those claims are quickly

resolved, the injured worker is quickly back at work and the appropriate payments that need to be made are made.

That is not to say the system is perfect. That is not to say we do not need reforms in the area of the pension system for those who are permanently disabled and suffer permanent wage loss. That is not to say we do not need to do one heck of a lot more in the area of vocational rehabilitation. That is not to say we do not have to consider seriously how we are going to deal with the issue of the reinstatement of injured workers.

I suggest to the Leader of the Opposition that this is the agenda of this government. Those reforms will be contained, I expect, in a package that will shortly be presented here. I hope that within that package we can not only reform the system, but deal with—

Mr. Speaker: That seems like a fairly complete answer.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: My question is for the Premier. Last Wednesday the Premier's colleague Premier Getty of Alberta said he had spoken to the Premier of Ontario (Mr. Peterson) during the course of the previous week and that the Premier of Ontario said, and I quote, "He was telling me he did not intend to block the agreement," referring to the free trade agreement.

Can the Premier verify that he was talking to the Premier of Alberta in the time frame I have suggested and did tell Premier Getty that, as Premier of Ontario, he did not intend to block the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I was not talking to him in that time frame.

Mr. Brandt: It is interesting that the Premier would respond in that fashion, because my office was in fact in touch with Premier Getty's office today to make absolutely certain that the quote on the part of Mr. Getty was accurate and that there had been a conversation. I have received a confirmation from Mr. Getty's office that the quote is correct, and he states that the Premier of Ontario indicated in a conversation with him that he did not intend to block the free trade agreement.

Can the Premier clarify the difference in statements being made in Ontario and Alberta relative to this point?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member asked me if I had been talking to Premier Getty the previous week and the answer is no, I had not been talking to him the previous week. I talked to him some weeks ago.

Mr. Brandt: Perhaps we could get to the key part of the question then. Apparently there may be some modest disagreement between the Premier of Ontario and the Premier of Alberta relative to what was or was not said.

Mr. Wildman: Time difference.

Mr. Brandt: As my colleague points out, there is a time difference and that could add confusion to the circumstance. So that our western friends will know exactly what is the position of Ontario relative to this very important matter—which is today being debated in the House of Commons, as the Premier well knows—is it the Premier's intention to take some action with respect to the free trade agreement where in fact Ontario would attempt to block the deal?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I said then and I say to the member now exactly what I have said before and what I shared with the federal minister responsible. Ontario reserves its right to take this matter to court. We have not seen the legislation. We perhaps will see it today. We will analyse it and share our views with him.

As he knows, there are a number of things in the federal jurisdiction. The question now is how that encroaches on provincial jurisdiction and what mechanism the federal government has used. But I say to the member, as I have said before, we disagree with that view. We do not think it is in the national interest. We think it is a mistake and we reserve our right to challenge this in court.

1410

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Brandt: As the Premier is well aware, whether or not a free trade agreement is successful in this country, under the GATT ruling, Ontario has to make some changes in its wine pricing and distribution system in this province. Can the Premier tell us what the impact of the GATT ruling will be on the wine industry and what plans his government has in place to assist the grape growers in the Niagara area to adjust to the implications of the GATT ruling?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As the member knows, the GATT ruling, in a sense, is not finalized. There has not been a specific suggestion made with respect to the grape growers or the wine industry here. After the preliminary ruling, shall we say, by GATT, Canada has to the end of the year to respond. Those discussions are ongoing.

It is our belief that the provisions under the free trade agreement, the seven-year provisions with

a 25 per cent knockdown in the markup for the first two years, would effectively take those—what?—900 farmers, 25,000 acres of grapes, out of production, would wipe it out. There have been ongoing discussions between the government and the grape growers with respect to an adjustment plan over a longer period of time. It would phase down the markup and allow them to plant new grapes, new varieties, and to compete. We think our program is sensible and fair and it has been worked out with others.

If the federal government comes in and tries to supersede that with a seven-year program and knocks the industry right over, clearly it is its responsibility to compensate it for all the damage.

Mr. Brandt: As the Premier has stated, the responsibility to negotiate a settlement that is acceptable to GATT lies with the federal government. I fully appreciate that position as being accurate and correct, but I also think the Premier and his Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter), along with the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), perhaps have an obligation to that industry in some way to ease the brunt of the burden it is going to face, irrespective of how that final decision comes down with respect to GATT.

We all know full well that the federal government may not be able to negotiate a fully acceptable arrangement in so far as the Premier's perspective on the issue may happen to be. Has his government formed a fallback position, a response, if you will, in co-operation with the federal government to assist that industry, which obviously is going to be under a great deal of stress, irrespective of how the GATT ruling goes?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The answer to the question is yes, there have been ongoing discussions in co-operation with both the wineries and the grape growers. We think the program that has been worked out is sensible and fair and is going to preserve a high percentage of the industry, not in the same state as it is now, but it is going to be fair.

I can tell my honourable friend those discussions have been going on for almost a year. If he talks to the grape growers, and I invite him to do so, they would tell him the ministers responsible have been extremely co-operative in working with them during this difficult period. I think they support the kind of approach we have taken.

On the other hand, if the federal free trade agreement comes along and supersedes that, it would virtually, effectively, knock out the

industry. It seems to me that if the federal government is going to sign that away, in its wisdom—and it knew our views when it was negotiating, just as I knew the views of others—then it has the responsibility to compensate our farmers.

Mr. Brandt: I want the Premier to know I have spoken to representatives of the grape-growing industry and the wine industry in Niagara and they have legitimate concerns. Recognizing that the policies of this province have been unfair as they relate to pricing in the wine industry—that has been generally accepted—some changes therefore have to be made in response to the position being taken by GATT.

Irrespective of the free trade agreement, if the GATT ruling comes down, I want to ask the Premier again, is his government prepared to send a clear signal to those grape growers and the wine industry that he is prepared to work co-operatively with the federal government to subsidize that industry, recognizing there may well be some reduction in the size of the industry? To keep it as viable as possible under the circumstances will require the assistance of his government and, I might add, the assistance of the federal government.

I want the Premier to know our party will support that view and that position if he makes that decision. Is he prepared to make the hard decision and put dollars into the Niagara Peninsula?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend seems to be wanting this matter both ways. I understand that in a way, because when we inherited the situation—and my honourable friend would stand in his place opposite and argue that there are unfair government subsidies being offered to the grape growers and the wineries through a particular system—he will recall, as a former minister responsible for some part of it at least, that there were certain distinct and discrete promises made by his government that went unhonoured that put the credibility of his government at some issue in these international discussions. I am constantly reminded, as we are discussing these matters—not just with the United States, but with GATT and other people—of promises made by his government that were not honoured.

Mr. Brandt: We were protecting the industry as you are trying to protect the industry. There is nothing wrong with that.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: We have a program over a 12-year period. If my honourable friend wants to go into the history of this, how his government

developed this industry and the pricing policies of his government, he probably is in the last position of anybody in Ontario to criticize what this government is doing. We are working closely with the industry. We have a 12-year period in order to do so. I think the grape growers feel we have been reasonable and that we are exercising leadership. But I say again, I cannot stand here in my place and see the federal government wipe out any industry—

Mr. Brandt: That's not their intention and the Premier knows it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, if it is not their intention, then they knoweth not what they do, because that is effectively what they are doing. As with other industries that are going to be wiped out under the trade agreement, it is their responsibility. I remind the House that the western premiers asserted last week that in those industries that are being hit because of free trade it is the federal government's responsibility to compensate them. That is our view.

RENT REGULATION

Mr. R. F. Johnston: My question is for the Minister of Housing with regard to the pro-landlord bias of the Liberal government's rent review policies. The minister is probably aware that this legislation allows landlords to pass through imaginary financing costs. Under regulation 29(2)(d), they are allowed to pass through costs that are not based on actual financing costs but on current market rates. Does the minister think it is appropriate that landlords can pass through 11 per cent mortgage financing costs when their actual costs are less than half of that?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: The rent review legislation we have is attempting to strike a balance between the needs of the people who rent in this province and the needs of the people who build and own buildings to make sure their buildings are able to be maintained.

The legislation tries to strike that balance and it has a variety of factors. There is the financing cost issue. There is also the cost of various forms of construction and maintenance. There are other balancing factors as well, including protection for tenants on the issue of maintenance through the Residential Rental Standards Board. That is the way the law works.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Some chicken, some neck, as somebody once said.

I want to bring to the minister's attention two cases of limited-dividend buildings in my riding. In one case, residents of 25 Parkette Place have just had a 9.6 per cent rent increase retroactive to

September 1986, when it was supposed to be capped at four per cent, she may recall. Their building has, at present, a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. second mortgage at 4.6 per cent. A building at 821 Birchmount has just had an 8.6 per cent increase to the same retroactivity and there is a CMHC first mortgage at 4.25 per cent.

The reason for these increases was the mortgage pass-throughs of 11 per cent that were applied for by the landlord.

How many other instances of this kind of ripoff that her legislation legitimizes are there around the province that are making tenants pay twice as much as they should be?

1420

Hon. Ms. Hošek: As a result of our legislation, four out of five households in Ontario do indeed pay rent increases at or near 4.7 per cent. The ones the honourable member is discussing are dealing with financial costs and other issues as well. I cannot comment on the specific ones the member has given to me until I have looked at those specific ones. The legislation balances the need for maintaining the buildings and the financial costs with the work that the tenants need in order to make sure they have a good place to live.

RIVERSIDE HOSPITAL OF OTTAWA

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. Riverside Hospital of Ottawa has a number of unfunded programs that are unfunded by the minister's ministry. Can the minister tell us which of these programs she does not approve?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We discussed this at some time last week. What I said to the honourable member at that time, as I am prepared to say today, is that Riverside is one of the hospitals under review. There are a number of programs in the Ottawa area which have been ranked by the district health council. One of the things I would advise Riverside is that if it has programs which it wants funded, it should take them to the district health council for prioritizing.

Mr. Eves: Let me read the minister a statement from her Touche Ross review of Riverside Hospital: "The hospital expressed concern with its inability to gain a clear understanding of life-support approval and funding criteria, despite many written requests to the MOH for clarification of their situation."

Other programs in which they have experienced the same difficulty include chemotherapy and occupational therapy. The minister stands here and continually criticizes hospitals for

implementing programs without ministry approval; yet her own approval process is not even at the point of approving last year's proposal requests.

Will the minister please make it very clear to Riverside Hospital and others out there which program she does not intend to fund so they will know which patients they should turn away?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We have said it on a number of occasions. I believe this is a very important planning issue for the province and that hospitals should have ministry approval before they begin new programs or expand their existing programs. One of the things we are determined to do is to make sure we have predictability in hospital funding and that hospitals are fairly funded. Where we find there are programs that have not been adequately resourced, we intend to make the appropriate adjustments. Where we find hospitals have not had approval before they begin new programs, we expect them to bring them in line with ministry approval.

We know that the majority of the hospitals in this province play by the rules and come in for approval before they spend money. They are telling me that if we reward those who begin their programs without ministry approval, then there is no incentive for good management in this province.

LANDFILL SITES

Mr. Mahoney: My question is to the Minister of the Environment. In the ongoing saga of hunting for a suitable landfill site in the region of Peel, some concern has been recently expressed by regional council about a staff recommendation from the minister's ministry dealing with the buffer area around the proposed or existing landfill site.

Ministry policy 707 states that the ministry is concerned with any land use being proposed within 500 metres of the existing site. A new staff policy recommendation suggests changes within regulation 309 of the municipal section, to the effect that land within three kilometres of a proposed site should be specifically considered in the planning of a new facility. This obviously expands policy 707 substantially.

Mr. Speaker: The question?

Mr. Mahoney: Can the minister state whether or not he is requiring municipalities to create a three-kilometre buffer zone or is the ministry talking about studying specific land use concepts within that three-kilometre area?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member would know, as a former municipal representative, as I am, that one of the concerns people have when attempting to site a landfill is that if they attempt to site it in an area where there are existing residences there is always natural resistance to that, and if they attempt to site it in an area, a greenfield site so to speak, where there are not other residences or other uses, it is important that the municipality not allow subdivisions immediately adjacent to the dump site

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Sorry, landfill site. The former Environment ministers know we are supposed to call them landfill sites. Everybody in the world calls them dump sites; so we call them dump sites.

As to what we are attempting to do in our ministry, first of all, to answer specifically the question, the answer is no, we will not be prohibiting any development within three kilometres of a landfill site. However, we do ask that municipalities take into consideration the land uses which are going to take place within three kilometres of the potential site. If the member for Burlington South (Mr. Jackson) would like me to elaborate further, I would be happy, because he is an individual who is—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Mahoney: The supplementary is, the recent developments of the 500-metre buffer zone and the confusion—

Mr. Jackson: Hey, Steve, where is your ice-cream truck?

Mr. Mahoney: I left it outside. Would you like one scoop or two?

The confusion in some recent written documents that have gone to local municipalities has left a number of municipalities confused. Can the minister explain this to the municipalities, perhaps in writing, to clear up this confusion, so they clearly understand the new guidelines?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: I am always pleased to be able to clarify for municipalities any of the rules and regulations as they relate to the Ministry of the Environment landfill sites because, as the member knows, in many cases the problem that exists is the fact that the people at the local level will not select a site, necessarily, which is environmentally best. On some occasions, one strong municipal politician will say he or she does not want the site in that specific municipality. Another will say, even within a region for instance, "It's not our municipality's turn to have

it." It does not matter the environmental criteria, but "it's not our turn to have it."

I think what the member is looking for and what we are all looking for is a situation where the rules are clarified. I am happy to do that in a letter, in a situation where we make a decision which is based on the best environmental information available, as opposed to whether somebody on a municipal council wants it in a specific location.

FUNERAL SERVICES

Mr. Swart: I am just sending the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations a sales document that is used by Memory Gardens, a commercial cemetery in the Guelph area. Of course, that is part of the Memorial Gardens Canada Ltd. chain. This document dishonestly distorts comparison prices of so-called leading cemeteries with theirs so that it appears Memory Gardens is cheaper.

We have checked the municipal Woodlawn Cemetery, which is its main competition in this area, and this is what is found on the document which the minister has. Although they say there is a care fund of \$490, there is no care fund charge at all. Although they say side-by-side spaces are \$1,400, they actually are \$780 at Woodlawn; and the average for Ontario, according to the minister's own study of 4,500 cemetery lots, is \$583.30. The real figure of the cost for the cemetery there is \$2,260, compared to what they quote—

Mr. Speaker: The question, please.

Mr. Swart: —of \$4,290 for the competition. Yes, Mr. Speaker. I did want to say to the minister that he and the previous ministers—

Mr. Speaker: Your question would be?

Mr. Swart: —have known about this kind of distortion of certain commercial cemeteries. Does he not think they are unethical, and why has he not stopped them?

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I have just had a moment to glance at the number of figures that are scrawled here and I am trying to figure out what these figures mean. As I heard my friend's question, he is suggesting that this alternative cemetery, Woodlawn, is in actuality charging less than its competitor claims it is and, presumably, he wants us to do something about that. I can take a look at this and see whether, beyond being unethical, any laws are being broken. If there are, we will have this matter investigated.

Mr. Swart: The bottom line, as the minister knows, is that there are special circumstances

which do surround the bereavement industry. Frequently, the people approached are elderly citizens or else they are people that have suffered bereavement recently.

By way of supplementary, I want to ask him a simple, two-part question. Given these commercial cemeteries' track record, is he prepared to give the commercial cemeteries the opportunity to take over the whole bereavement sector, as they want to do? Second, does he not believe, because of the special circumstances, that telephone and house-to-house solicitation should be banned in all sections of the bereavement industry?

1430

Hon. Mr. Wrye: I think I have heard my friend ask this question before and I think my friend will not be surprised that the answer today will be the same as the one I have given him on previous occasions.

I know he is very anxious that we get on with this matter. I would only say to him that this whole matter of cemeteries and the whole bereavement sector is under very active review in the ministry.

He asks a two-part question which really captures two of the fundamental decisions that have to be made; once those decisions are made and once cabinet has made its recommendations and its decision on these matters and we can bring these legislative changes to the House, he will see the options the government has decided to follow.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Sterling: I have a question of the Solicitor General. Under Bill 113, the Sunday shopping bill, regional or district municipalities and the county of Oxford are given the right to make Sunday opening laws.

Can those regions and districts and the county of Oxford delegate the authority down to the local municipality if they decide to opt out, as she has chosen to opt out?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The regional government has been given the prime responsibility in these areas and will have the right of final say on these matters. Of course, as they do with regional governments in other areas, they will negotiate and talk to them on these issues. The regional government, however, retains the right to say "no" to changing, to opening.

Mr. Sterling: I can well understand the confusion of the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black). The Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith) herself does not seem to know the answer

as to whether legislation can be delegated down to the local municipality, which is what my question was.

I understand that the whole reason for the change in this particular law was in order to clarify it for the people of Ontario. How does she expect the people of Ontario to understand it when neither the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay nor herself seems to know the answer to this particular question?

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The answer is quite simply that the regional government will maintain that right, as the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay and I have discussed. He is quite clear on the fact that the regional government will have it.

REFUGEE CLAIMANTS

Mr. Faubert: My question is for the Minister of Citizenship. As the minister is aware, the number of persons arriving in Canada claiming refugee status has increased sharply in the last three years, from 7,000 in 1984 to approximately 26,000 last year. As the minister may also be aware, Scarborough is the home of a large and growing multicultural community and, as such, this community is an attractive home for many refugees.

At present, it is estimated that across Canada there is a backlog of over 40,000 cases awaiting determination. Of these persons, 60 per cent reside in Ontario and the majority of these within Metropolitan Toronto. Can the minister advise what his ministry is doing to assist these refugee claimants while they are waiting for their status to be resolved?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: We are very much aware of the plight of the refugees and, while I think all members in the House would appreciate that this is a matter the determination of which is in the federal government's hands, our ministry is moving to ensure that the necessary community support is there for refugees.

I might add that our Ontario Welcome House program accommodated approximately 8,000 refugee claimants in the last year, which is up about 30 per cent; so the welcome houses provided advice, as I say, for about 8,000 refugee claimants.

The second thing I would point out to the members is that we are fortunate in this province to have some very significant community groups which provide assistance. Our ministry core-funds or provides ongoing funding for about 80 such community groups that are providing support to the refugee claimants.

The second part that we are working with community groups on is English-as-a-second-language training. I think we have provided around 350 different grants to community groups to provide English-as-a-second-language training. About 120 of those grants were linked to preschool children's training as well. We are, in both those groups, the welcome houses and the community support groups, providing, I hope, some of the necessary community support to a very important area, the refugee claimants.

Mr. Faubert: I have been made aware of a service provider in Scarborough which, as a result of the determination process backlog, has been greatly challenged by the demand for settlement services. Will the minister tell what his ministry can do to help this and like agencies meet the increased challenges to assist refugee claimants?

Hon. Mr. Phillips: Again, the whole area of the number of refugee claimants is quite important and became a matter of some considerable interest as we looked at the backlog building. What we did was to survey the community groups to determine if there was a need for some special funding. We did provide that in March and April this year where we found there was a need for some emergency funding; and we funded, I think, about 14 or 15 community groups with incremental funding to help overcome what I hope will be a short-term need.

There were 14 groups, and I believe, if I am not mistaken, that one of those groups was in Scarborough. In addition to that, we provided some incremental funding to our welcome houses to also try to meet what I hope will be this particular short-term need.

ST. CLAIR COLLEGE OF APPLIED ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a question to the Minister of Colleges and Universities. The minister will no doubt be totally aware herself now of the impact of her underfunding on St. Clair College in the Windsor-St. Clair area. In view of the guarantee that her government has made in the past that everyone who is qualified to attend post-secondary education will be able to attend, does the minister approve of the likely areas where there will be cutbacks at our college, which will be in areas like English as a second language, remedial English programs, remedial math programs and programs to assist women getting into nontraditional work areas? Those are the likely areas of the cutbacks, because they are in the general education area.

Does she approve of those types of cutbacks? If she does not, is she prepared to come to the aid of this college to prevent these massive layoffs of 88 staff, 60 of which are teachers?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: We are certainly committed as a government, and I am personally committed as a minister, to ensuring that there is accessibility to post-secondary students in this province to a full range of programs. That does not necessarily imply that all programs will be offered in all colleges or in all universities. However, in relation to the St. Clair situation, we will certainly be reviewing the proposed areas in which the St. Clair College board of governors has indicated that it will be cutting back.

If there is any support that we can provide—information, suggestions as to alternatives—we will be working with them in that regard. But, as I have indicated in the House before, we will also be supporting the St. Clair board of governors in its management of this situation.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: If the minister really wanted to support the board of governors at our college, she would support it financially. They do not want these cutbacks. She is imposing these cutbacks with a \$3-million deficit and the lack of recognition that the enrolment has gone up 7.6 per cent at that college.

Community colleges are community based. They are not like universities, where students travel across the province to go to the university of their choice where there is specialization. Is the minister now saying that colleges are going to take on a different role in this province and are not going to serve regional students? Is she in fact saying that students have to travel way outside of their community to achieve access to community colleges in this province?

Hon. Mrs. McLeod: I am not making a statement which is directive to the colleges. In fact, I am very strongly supporting the role of each college's board of governors in managing its particular situation. We do, however, review the situation so that we can ensure that across the province there is access to programs, and in the evolution of the colleges a number of colleges have offered particular areas of specialty.

I also want to indicate that we do believe, once again, that we are providing very substantial financial support to our colleges. This is the first year in which St. Clair College has experienced an increase in its enrolment and, as I have indicated to the House before, that increase will be reflected in its future grants. The college board of governors is well aware of that.

COURT RULINGS

Mr. Jackson: My question is to the Attorney General. The following quotations are taken from the reasons for judgement in three separate cases of sexual assault in Ontario. In 1980 there was forced sexual intercourse with a 16-year-old. The sentence was two years and the judge commented that the victim was "not a virgin." In 1981 there were four sex offences, including repeated rape of the accused's foster daughter. The sentence was two years less a day. The judge commented that the man was "a nonviolent and nonaggressive paedophile." In 1988 there was a sexual assault charge. The sentence was 90 days, to be served on weekends. It was increased on appeal and the judge's comments are well known. He said the attack was "short in duration" and the accused was "from a good family."

1440

Does the Attorney General not agree that these comments, all by District Court Judge Vannini of Sault Ste. Marie, demonstrate the need for mandatory training and upgrading for all judges and crown attorneys who deal with victims of sexual assault?

Hon. Mr. Scott: The last example took place during my term in office and, as the honourable member will know, we appealed the decision to the Court of Appeal. The appeal was allowed and the sentence increased. I am very concerned, as I know the government is and other honourable members in the House are, about this kind of offence which is prosecuted in our courts.

There are programs that the judges run, consistent with their independence, which are designed to alert themselves to social problems of this type. It is not within the power of an Attorney General in a democratic society to run a program for judges, for reasons that honourable members will well understand, but we do lend support to those programs where they exist and we encourage them.

Mr. Jackson: The Attorney General does have provincial court judges who fall clearly under his jurisdiction. I bring to his attention the case of Judge James Greco, also of Sault Ste. Marie. This incident occurred during his term as Attorney General.

On May 8, 1987, he fined Paul Levert \$500 on each of two counts involving the planned and premeditated sexual assault of his two step-granddaughters. One of the girls suffered extensive psychological damage. Judge Greco said that "society's abhorrence and revulsion were adequately expressed by this fine."

The Attorney General is in charge of disciplining provincial judges like Judge Greco. Does he not think that this tiny fine, which the crown, the Attorney General himself, did not appeal, reflects an appropriate understanding of the seriousness of sexual assault? If not, what is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Scott: When the honourable member speaks of disciplining provincial court judges, he of course entirely overlooks the right of the Attorney General, the right of the government and the important value of the independence of the judiciary.

As he well knows, there are two things that can be done. The first is that in an appropriate case where we think a good result can be achieved, we are entitled to appeal and we do that. In other cases where we believe that the judge has offended standards of propriety, we are entitled to complain to the Judicial Council for Provincial Judges, a council composed of the chief judges of the various courts. We do that as well in appropriate cases. To speak of disciplining the judges in a political forum like this is entirely inconsistent with the independence of our bench.

STEINBERG INC.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister tell the House what role, if any, he is playing with respect to the possible dismantling of the Steinberg stores in Ontario and what effect this would have on the many employees who are involved?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I am not aware of the specific issue the member is bringing up. If he wants to provide me with some details in his supplementary, I will be delighted to answer them in the supplementary response or look into the matter and respond more fully later in the House.

Mr. Mackenzie: I am surprised that on an issue of this importance the minister is not better advised. The company is literally blackmailing the workers with demands for a one-hour decrease in the hours worked per week, a \$2,000 cut per year in pay and a six-year guaranteed no-strike contract, on which basis they may keep the stores open. Otherwise, they are very likely to dismantle and close the stores.

Does the minister endorse this approach to labour relations and is he prepared to accept a Sunbelt labour movement in Ontario, or what is he prepared to do about this company threat?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: The matter the member for Hamilton East expounds a little bit about, the

matters he is concerned about, obviously is a matter that I as well, as Minister of Labour, have to be concerned about. He raised a similar issue a few days ago in this House, referring in general and in specific terms to the nature of bargaining between parties in the collective bargaining process.

My answer at that time and at this time really has to be the same. The suggestion in the question of the member for Hamilton East really raises the issue of whether a corporation is bargaining in bad faith with a trade union, trying to reach a collective agreement. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on that bargaining except to say, to remind the member for Hamilton East and the trade union in the case, that the appropriate forum in which to resolve the issue of whether or not a corporation is bargaining in bad faith is before the Ontario Labour Relations Board.

There are specific concerns, specific issues he brings up that may well be appropriate as we consider amendments to the Ontario Labour Relations Act, because obviously the act creates a context within which the parties bargain. I am familiar with some of the suggestions my friend the member for Hamilton East has as we look at that act. I can tell him quite frankly that I invite his views and I invite evidence that certain sections of the act need to be amended as we go forward, considering a variety of things that need to be changed in that act.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question for Jimmy "The Jet" Bradley, who is jetting away from dump problems as fast as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Throw him right out.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: A one-way ticket.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: We want Dianne.

Hon. Mr. Scott: Let's have Dianne. Put up Dianne today.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You were just grounded, Sam.

Mr. Speaker: Order. All members may place their questions through the chair to a minister.

Mr. Cureatz: Is that under section 24(b), Mr. Speaker? I have a question, then, to the person who is masquerading as the Minister of the Environment.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Is there any other member with a question?

Mr. Cureatz: I have a question.

Mr. Speaker: You have a question?

Mr. Cureatz: A question to the Minister of the Environment. You are tough, Mr. Speaker, tough.

I am wondering how the minister can justify the fact of allowing the Minister of Transportation (Mr. Fulton) to give the go-ahead to Metro Toronto to begin soil tests on lots 27 and 28 in Darlington township, in my riding of Durham East, along the road allowance of Highway 401 for the preparation of the Metro dump site, which dump site is going to be bordered on one side by the Darlington generating station and on the other side, I say to the Minister of Natural Resources (Hon. Mr. Kerrio)—

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Cureatz: —by the Darlington Provincial Park and Oshawa General Motors headquarters, and to the south by Lake Ontario. How can he justify the minister allowing Metro to begin these kinds of soil tests in a place where the dump should not be going?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member for Durham East is actually one of my favourite members in the House. How well I remember what an excellent job he did when he could occupy the chair on occasion; and when he occupied the chair just down from you, Mr. Speaker, how refined he was in his approach. It was an excellent job he did in that regard.

It is understandable and it is most appropriate that the member would express concern in the interests of the people of his constituency and I commend him for addressing a question of that nature. As the member would know, Metropolitan Toronto is looking in a number of areas for a potential landfill site to meet its needs, both within the borders of the municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and outside those borders. As part of that, they are doing drilling in various areas to see if the area is suitable environmentally. Obviously, if the area is not suitable environmentally as a result of the tests they take, they would discount that as one of the areas that would be at all appropriate.

I certainly understand the member expressing this point of view. When his party was in power, of course, it permitted Metropolitan Toronto to look in various areas. They will still have to be looked at in an environmental light before any decision would be made.

1450

Mr. Cureatz: I am glad the minister has been so appreciative of some of my past experience in

these chambers, because I have a small gift for the minister. This is a token gift of garbage. Since he is the Minister of the Environment, why does he not start doing something about garbage in the Golden Horseshoe? I say to the minister—

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary?

Mr. Cureatz: —since he is the one responsible, why does he not start developing a policy with regard to garbage and landfill sites in the Golden Horseshoe? Is it not true that if Halton, Metro and Durham started building environmentally safe incinerators, the garbage problem would begin to be resolved?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Where is the question?

Mr. Cureatz: When is the minister going to take the approach and the initiative of solving these problems, which are going to be the biggest issue in these chambers in this term?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: During the member's excellent question, I had a difficult time hearing it all because of the interruptions, but I will make an attempt to answer that which I heard.

Mr. Rae: You're on the same wave length as Sam Cureatz. Now I'm really worried.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member was, as I say, asking a very legitimate question. From what I heard, one of the points he indicated was that there have been proposals put forward from time to time in various jurisdictions for the incineration of garbage. He asked when this is going to happen.

As the member would know, municipalities have a number of options available to them. He would share with me the viewpoint that all municipalities should be advancing as their first case the recycling and reclamation of material within their own borders. I think he and I would be on the same wavelength there.

I want to tell the member that despite the concerns of the leader of the official opposition, there are people who are as adamantly opposed to the construction of incinerators, even going through the environmental assessment process and even putting on the best available technology, as there are those who, going through the environmental process and using the best available technology in a landfill site, select that as a way of disposing of garbage. There are people who oppose both of those particular initiatives and it is never an easy decision for a municipality to decide which route it is going to follow, but it is our responsibility to look at those proposals and—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Another fairly full, complete answer.

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Mr. Wildman: In the absence of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Riddell), I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. Is the minister responsible for trade aware that because of the inability or unwillingness of the federal customs to enforce the 17.5 per cent duty on retail milk purchased by Canadians on the United States side, there has been a significant decline in milk sales in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, resulting over the last year in the loss of two jobs at a local dairy and a significant loss of local market for Algoma farmers to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan?

If he is aware of that, what initiative is he prepared to take with the federal government to encourage it to charge the duty?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: I am not aware of this situation, but I will be happy to look into it for the member and get back to him.

Mr. Wildman: Also, the minister might comment on what he anticipates—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It says, "Made in the USA." Nice flowers though, nice bows.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wildman: The Minister of the Environment would take up the time not only when he is answering questions but also when he is not answering questions.

I wonder if, in considering this problem, the minister will also comment on what he anticipates will be the result of the free trade agreement, if it goes through, for dairies and dairy farmers in Ontario, since this duty will be phased out over 10 years, according to that agreement.

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The member will know that we have expressed our concerns about several sectors in the agricultural field and how they are going to be impacted by the free trade agreement. What he has just brought up is one of the concerns we have.

We have been assured our marketing boards will stay intact. We have been assured we will have an adjustment program that will look after it. This is one of the areas we are watching very carefully. It is an area we are anxious to see when the federal government tables its legislation, to make sure we do what we can to protect Ontario farmers.

TABLING OF INFORMATION

Mr. McLean: I have a question for the Minister of Government Services. Since last December, I have had some questions in Orders and Notices and the minister has not seen fit to answer them. I want to ask the minister if he intends to answer these questions which concern a very important item the people in this province want to know. It has to do with the television sets and the office equipment people around this building have. I would like to know when the two lowest tenders were received and what they were. Is the minister prepared to table that?

Hon. Mr. Patten: It is my information that those questions, which I did see, have already been answered. If they have not, then I will check into it and I will get back to the member.

Mr. McLean: I appreciate that very much. Is the minister prepared to answer the other questions that are on the order paper before this session is done?

Hon. Mr. Patten: Yes. If the questions require us to do the research that would stretch out the time, and of course we have to estimate that. But I will be happy, within a reasonable time frame, to answer the questions the member has asked.

LEGISLATIVE DECORUM

Hon. Mr. Conway: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am somewhat loath to do this because like all my colleagues in the House, I cherish the attendance and the intervention of the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz). But I must say that over the past number of weeks there have been a number of what might be construed as demonstrations in the course of the legislative debate and I think this afternoon—

Mr. Wildman: Stuart Smith used to do that once in a while.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Conway: I just want to say, very briefly and noncontroversially, to my friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. B. Rae), I would like the Speaker perhaps to reflect upon and to provide some guidance to the assembly as to standing order 9. I say to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot)—

Mr. Mackenzie: It must be getting to you.

Hon. Mr. Conway: No, it is not getting to me at all. I think all honourable members expect there to be a certain decorum in this chamber. There are many, I think, who would view the

sending across the aisle of green garbage bags as perhaps not their idea of legislative decorum.

I just thought today the member for Durham East, in his colourful way, provided an opportunity for all of us to reflect upon what appropriate decorum might be. If it is the view of this House that garbage bags of this kind and description are appropriately passed around during this sitting, then that is going to be the way it is, I suppose.

I personally am rather concerned at the trend I see developing. There are placards being waved around and about the place. There are garbage bags being sent from across the way. I just ask for your guidance, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker: I think it would be appropriate for the government House leader, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), if he has a particular concern about a particular incident in the House, to raise that item.

It has become a tradition in this Legislature—I remember when I was first elected, Dr. Stuart Smith on many occasions used props in the House. My colleague the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) has done a very good job of using props in the House in demonstrating the unfairness of governments.

I think it is very inappropriate for the government House leader to indicate that he is asking the Speaker to look at a whole bunch of incidents in this place over the last maybe 20 years. If there is one the government House leader thinks is inappropriate, then he should stand up and indicate the standing rule he is referring to and why he thinks it is inappropriate. Other than that, I think his intervention today was totally inappropriate.

1500

Mr. Harris: I too want to comment briefly on the point of order, Mr. Speaker. I want to indicate that the whole of the standing orders, the rules of the House are at this very moment, as we speak, under a major and extensive review. There are many appropriate forums for bringing forth the suggestion the member is bringing.

Specifically, and in general terms, I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the comments of the government House leader today very properly belong in the sack that was presented to the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley) by the member for Durham East.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the three members who have spoken on the point

with reference to, I believe, standing order 9, which of course allows the Speaker the right, I suppose the opportunity, to try to maintain order and decorum. I would say that today the members might find it interesting that we were doing well in question period, when many members were able to ask questions, until we came to question 14, which took six and a half minutes for question and—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

I think the point made by the government House leader and the representatives from the other parties certainly should be taken under consideration by the standing committee on the Legislative Assembly at some time in the near future.

Mr. Harris: On your point, Mr. Speaker, I think you have inadvertently—I applaud your efforts to get a number of questions on and I applaud your efforts to be critical if some members go on at length, but to suggest that the member for Durham East was the cause of prolonged time spent on a question, when you know the question was asked to the Minister of the Environment—I would suggest six minutes is well under average whenever the Minister of the Environment is asked a question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Speaker is not here to debate, and I did allow the member to go a little further than he probably should have at the appropriate time. However, I have suggested that the Legislative Assembly committee might look at that in the near future.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition signed by 28 residents of Ontario, to which I will affix my name. It says:

“To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays; to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day

for working people and working families in Ontario.”

Mr. Smith: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly:

“We, the undersigned, oppose further expansion of Sunday shopping and ask you, our elected officials, to protect Sunday as the traditional day for rest, worship and family activity.”

There are approximately 98 names on this petition, and I have signed my name to the bottom.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. McCague: I have a petition signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers in Ontario which reads as follows.

Mr. Callahan: It's upside-down.

Mr. McCague: It may look upside-down to him.

“To the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“The Ontario budget contains excessive tax increases, which are a direct attack on the middle class. I object, and I demand that you repeal them.

“Bob Nixon, you really have gone too far.”

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Miss Martel: I have a petition signed by residents of the town of Spanish in the riding of Algoma-Manitoulin and it reads as follows:

“We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

“In recognition of the importance of a day of pause in our Canadian society, we ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened; that the act remain under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature rather than be transferred to local municipalities for administration.”

I have affixed my signature to this.

Mr. Miller: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: If a sign being used here in the Legislature has the member's name on it, should he not be referred to as the member for the riding instead of by the individual name?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I appreciate the member's comment. It is sometimes difficult for the Speaker to really ascertain whether the member is making a statement himself or herself or whether they are reading from it. If they are reading, I suppose it is very difficult for the—

TAX INCREASES

Mr. McLean: I have a petition here, signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

NATUROPATHY

Mr. McClelland: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by 109 residents of Brampton and the surrounding area. It reads in part:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"...to introduce legislation that would guarantee naturopaths the right to practise their art and science to the fullest without prejudice or harassment."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mrs. Grier: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It is signed by 40 taxpayers of the town of Woodstock, with respect to Sunday shopping, and it reads in part:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours...."

I have affixed my signature to it.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Pollock: I have a petition signed by 1,000 irate ratepayers of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

Mr. Speaker: Have you signed the petition?

Mr. Pollock: Yes.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Sterling: "To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament as follows:

"We are opposed to the Ontario government's plan to give responsibility for Sunday shopping to the municipalities because we feel it will result in wide-open Sundays. We request that the Ontario government pass legislation to ensure the people of Ontario a common pause day."

This petition is signed by 440 people from the Kitchener area who have signed it through the stores of Kitchener Textiles Ltd. I have signed the petition.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Cureatz: I say to the House leader, who is so sanctimonious today, that I, too, have a petition signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. D. S. Cooke: I have a petition regarding Sunday shopping. It reads in part:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

1510

TAX INCREASES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I have a petition signed by several hundred irate taxpayers in the province of Ontario which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Ontario budget contains excessive tax increases which are a direct attack on the middle class. We object and demand that you repeal them."

I have signed the following petitions.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsibility for regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it; and

"Because the government says it has adopted this approach because the current legislation 'was becoming more and more impossible to enforce, particularly in many large urban centres,' but plans, none the less, to proceed with legislation that may well result in different rules in different municipalities within a region and different rules in different parts of the same municipality, thus making the law more and not less difficult to enforce; and

"Because the government's stated intention is a breach of the promise made by the Premier that no retail worker would have to work on Sunday if he or she did not wish to; and

"Because the commitment made by the Minister of Labour in regard to retail workers is a hollow commitment because it provides them only with the right to refuse work they consider unreasonable; and

"Because a substantial majority of workers in the retail sector in Ontario are not represented by trade unions; and

"Because work refusals will be mediated and, if necessary, refereed by officials of the employment standards branch, who will have a number of factors to weigh in deciding whether the refusal was reasonable, and the number and character of these factors weighs heavily against workers refusing Sunday work assignments; and

"Because even in sectors where workers have a long history of strong trade union representation, disputes over whether an individual's and/or company's actions are reasonable are notoriously difficult to resolve in favour of workers where it must be shown that the employer has not acted reasonably; and

"Because the time necessary for the investigation, mediation and, if necessary, refereeing of a refusal of a Sunday work assignment will be a considerable deterrent to workers seeking to exercise this so-called right of refusal; and

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and general in application as possible."

This is signed by 15 residents of the city of Woodstock. I have affixed my name to it.

Mr. Speaker: This might be the appropriate time to again remind the members that when they are presenting petitions, they might review the standing orders and refer to the material allegations, not necessarily all the "whereases."

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Villeneuve: I too have a petition signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers in the province of Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Ontario budget contains excessive tax increases, which are a direct attack on the middle class. We object and demand that you repeal them.

"Mr. Treasurer, you have gone too far."
I have signed the petition.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Laughren: There seems to be no end to these petitions against Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according with the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario:

"Because, despite the claims of the Premier and other members of the Liberal government, this amounts to creating a local option for municipalities and, therefore, dumps responsi-

bility for regulation of Sunday working in the laps of municipal governments, who have already indicated they don't want it."

I have attached my signature to these petitions.

TAX INCREASES

Mr. Cousens: I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of constituents across Ontario.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Bob Nixon, you've gone too far. I am poor now. Give me a reduction, not an increase."

This is signed by the member for Markham.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Reville: I have a petition which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

There are nine "because." I will read the last one:

"Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and as general in application as possible."

The petition is signed by nine residents of Woodstock, Ontario, and I am signing it as well, as is required by the standing orders. I agree with this petition.

Mr. Mackenzie: I have a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to the legislation it has announced, but instead urge it to strengthen existing legislation so as to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday

work hours and strengthen protection for all workers who do not want to work on Sundays, to not pass the buck to local governments on this issue, and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

And the last "because" is: "Because it is reprehensible that any provincial government would seek to transfer jurisdiction over standards of employment to local municipalities in the face of many decades' recognition of the need for standards as broad and general in application as possible."

It is signed by 10 residents of Woodstock, Beachville and Norwich. I sign it and agree with this petition.

ABORTION

Mr. Villeneuve: I have a petition addressed to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. I fully agree with the petition, which reads as follows:

"Wherefore the undersigned, your petitioners ever pray and call upon parliament to pass into law legislation that will protect the life of the unborn child from conception and at all stages of development, with the exception of the extremely rare situation in which an abortion is performed in order to save the life of the mother, and as in duty bound your petitioners will ever pray."

TAX INCREASES

Mrs. Marland: I have a petition, signed by several irate taxpayers in Ontario, which reads as follows:

"The Ontario budget contains excessive tax increases which are a direct attack on the middle class. I object and I demand you repeal them. Why don't you give us a tax break for working hard instead of stealing our hard-earned money? You have lost my vote and my respect."

Those are signed by three people in Mississauga, a Mr. G. Hills at 2235 Hurontario Street—

Mr. Speaker: Order. It is not necessary to read the petitioners.

Mrs. Marland: All right. I am happy to append my signature to this petition because I share the concern of these people.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I presume you are going to send down the whole petition.

Mrs. Marland: Yes, I am.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, there is another part, is there not?

Mrs. Marland: No, this is mine.

1520

MOTION

DISCHARGE OF BILL 125

Hon. Mr. Conway moved that the order for third reading of Bill 125, An Act to amend the Education Act and certain other Acts related to Education, be discharged and that the bill be referred to the committee of the whole House.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

TOWN OF MARKHAM ACT

Mr. Cousens moved first reading of Bill Pr20, An Act respecting the Town of Markham.

Motion agreed to.

BROCKVILLE ROWING CLUB INCORPORATED ACT

Mr. Runciman moved first reading of Bill Pr46, An Act respecting the Brockville Rowing Club Incorporated.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Sweeney moved second reading of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Child and Family Services Act, 1984.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: Some members of the House will recall that in 1984 the then members of this Legislature who formed the standing committee on social development met on numerous occasions, both privately and publicly, to draft and put together the child and family services legislation which was to replace the Child Welfare Act.

I notice that my colleague the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston) just entered the House. He will well remember those days. He and others will also remember that the main thrust of those public hearings and our private discussions was to try to bring into conformity with what was happening in our communities and in our society today the various pieces of child welfare legislation that were on the books at that time.

The general sense seemed to be that the existing legislation, as well as being very fragmented rather than co-ordinated, was also somewhat more restrictive than the rights-

oriented kind of society in which we were living at that time and, I would suggest, still live in.

Therefore, the overall direction of the final legislation which was approved for third reading in the fall of 1984 and was, in fact, proclaimed by this House as legislation in November 1985, the overriding underpinning of that was to give children more rights, or to recognize more rights for children than had previously been the case.

There was relatively little disagreement among the various members of the legislative committee that that, in fact, should take place. I can quite recall, as a member of that committee, agreeing with that move in that direction.

What I want to bring before the members today is an amendment to that legislation that recognizes what in fact has happened over the past roughly two and a half years, and also to point out once again to the public of this province, as we frequently have to do in this Legislature, that our legislation is not carved in stone and that after a time of experience, if we find that things are not working the way we had anticipated they were going to, if we find that there are deficiencies in the legislation, if we find that we did not go far enough or that we went too far, this Legislature has always in the past brought the legislation back and amended it. That is what I am proposing on behalf of the government today with Bill 107.

It is a proposal to recognize that after two and a half years of the Child and Family Services Act actually being implemented in Ontario, we have discovered some aspects of it that are not working in the way in which we had anticipated. I want to underline the word "anticipate" because, as legislators, that literally is all we can do.

We can never know for sure, once we put legislation into effect, exactly what is going to happen. It is one thing for us to debate in this assembly; it is one thing for us to debate in the various committee rooms what we anticipate is going to happen, what we hope is going to happen and what we intend to happen. It is quite another thing to actually have the legislation in effect and then to find out what in fact is happening.

The second point I want to make with respect to that is that, as legislators, we have a certain intention. We put words into legislation and we intend them to mean certain things. We intend them to be interpreted in certain ways. But there are many members of this Legislature who have been around here for a few years who will recall on numerous occasions that despite our intention and despite our hope for interpretation, others

outside of this Legislature do not agree with us. We frequently have judges in our courts saying to us indirectly, "That may be what you intended but these are the words that are in black and white and here is how I interpret them."

We sometimes have our police forces saying, "That may very well have been your intention and your interpretation, but it is not the way that we interpret it." The difficulty we have in a case like that is to stand firm and simply say to our judges, our police forces, the various providers of services and the parents of children in this province: "Well, that is too bad, isn't it? We have done our job as legislators. We have drafted the legislation the way we believed we should, the way way we believed we were interpreting the feelings of the people of the province. If you do not like what we have done, too bad."

We can take that position, but the difficulty I have as the minister responsible for this legislation and for the implementation of this legislation is that there are young people out there, there are children in Ontario, who are being disadvantaged by the way that other people choose to interpret and implement our legislation. We have young people out there whose best interests are not being taken care of.

It is true that their rights are being respected, but one of the things that we here in this Legislature must always be conscious of is our responsibility to tread a careful line, particularly when we are dealing with children—we are not talking about adults here; we are talking about children's legislation—that balance, if you will, between the best interests of our children and the rights of our children. I do not pretend for a moment that is an easy thing to do. I do not pretend for a moment to say that as legislators we are going to, either in the past or today or sometime in the future, be able to draft legislation where we have done that perfectly.

1530

It has not been the history of legislatures and parliaments and I suspect it is not going to be the case today and therefore what I want to say to my colleagues is that we did, under the child and family services legislation, draft that act to the best of our ability at that time. We have found some flaws in it. We are bringing back an amendment to that legislation at this time to try to improve the legislation, to make it truly in the best interests of children where in fact we have found that is not the case.

One of the difficulties we have had was in the choice of the words, "substantial risk." The existing legislation clearly says that when a child

is in substantial or at substantial risk that the authorities, be it a police officer or a child protection worker, would have the right under that legislation to apprehend the child, to take him back to his own home or to take him to a place of safety or take him to a place of treatment, whatever the case may be.

We believed and I certainly believed at the time those words were chosen because we went over a number of words. I can remember the list of options that were available to us. We truly believed that the words "substantial risk" would be taken to mean real risk, risk with substance to it, not something frivolous.

However, it has been judged by our some of our courts and by some of our police forces that the term "substantial risk" is just too vague. It is too broad. It can mean too many things. On the basis of that, children who should have been apprehended for their own best interests and in most cases with the desire of their parents—I am not talking about abusive parents here; I am talking of good parents—in fact were not.

I need not remind my colleagues that on any day of the week they can go down the Yonge Street strip in the city of Toronto here—and in many of our larger urban areas, but Toronto has always been a magnet or a focal point for young children who run away—and see the number of kids on the street.

Again, I would repeat, we are talking of children. We are not talking of adults.

I suppose in many ways we are in competition with others who would not act in the best interests of our children. It has been pointed out—for example, with some of the various service providers, by the police themselves—that we are often in competition with the pimps, those who would exploit, those who would abuse, those who would use our children for their own selfish, personal reasons.

That is not a pleasant battle. We did not draw the lines. We did not make the game plan. That has been done by someone else. That is out of our hands. And despite the fact that through legislation and through the activity of our various police forces an attempt is made to control that activity, in fact it is not an easy task.

These amendments will go some way to making the battlefield a little bit more even, a little bit more level, but I would not pretend to say to any of my colleagues that we are going to solve that problem; we are not. However, in the field of human endeavours, in the field of legislative endeavour, we nibble away and we try to make things better, even though we know we

cannot solve them completely. So I do not want to pretend that this is the answer; it is not. It is one of the answers.

We hope it is going to prove more effective than the existing legislation. Nevertheless, we do not fool ourselves into believing it is going to respond to all of them.

I also want to point out that members of my ministry, staff of my ministry in our head office and in our various area offices scattered around the province, genuinely try to work with the police officers who in fact apprehend children. We have genuinely tried to understand their concerns and resolve their differences with us over the last couple of years.

As a matter of fact, some members will be aware of this little booklet that we prepared in our ministry and distributed to all the police officers in Ontario with respect to the apprehension of children. It is of this size so that it would simply slip into their shirt pockets, and if they needed to pull it out and refer to it from time to time, it would be available.

But let me just point out some of the things that we said before we felt it necessary to bring in these amendments. I want to say clearly to my colleagues that we did not bring these amendments in lightly. If we could have resolved them without doing so, we would have. Let me point out to my colleagues some of the things that we have said in here.

"Police officers, in many instances, are given the same powers as a class of persons designated as 'child protection workers.'" We wanted them to clearly understand their responsibility.

We also pointed out that we want them to use the least restrictive way of dealing with children. We pointed out that children are individuals with the same rights as the rest of us. There is no quarrel about that. We do not disagree on that.

We then went on to say, with respect to substantial risk, "The requirement that the risk must be 'substantial' means that it must be a real risk or an actual risk." We clearly indicated what our intent was.

Then we went on to point out, "It is therefore intended that a broad view be taken of the grounds under which a child may be in need of protection."

One of the points that we made clearly with respect to the danger that young children are in is this one: "In the absence of any further evidence, there is a presumption that a runaway or a missing child under 16 years of age is at substantial risk."

Members will recall from previous discussions that we even put into it a proviso that would protect the police from any kind of liability or action. It is pointed out here, "The act gives police officers a new, specific protection from civil liability" to err on the side of intervention when they are in doubt.

I do not think we can be accused of not trying to use other mechanisms. We genuinely tried. All I can say to my colleagues is that after two and a half years, they simply did not work. Right now, in our judgement, there are too many children on our streets, particularly of our larger cities. The best estimate in Toronto today is 10,000 who are at risk and whose best interests are not being served by the existing legislation.

What changes are we proposing, then?

First, that parents and/or guardians may obtain a warrant. That warrant can be issued to a child protection worker or to a police officer to apprehend a runaway.

By the way, with respect to runaways, we are talking of those below the age of 16; in other words, up to the age of 15. We recognize that in Ontario a 16-year-old can legally leave his or her home, a 16-year-old can leave school, a 16-year-old can get married. We recognize that, and we are not in any way trying to interfere with that practice in Ontario. We are talking of those under the age of 16.

It is the normal practice in Ontario that those children under the age of 16 who do not live in homes where they are being abused are under the legitimate and legal protection of their parents. If there is abuse, we have other mechanisms to deal with that, and the members of the Legislature are well aware of those.

First of all, then, we give parents the right to obtain a warrant and to have their child apprehended and returned home if in fact he has run away.

1540

There is a proviso in there that, if the child protection worker or the police officer has reason to believe that the child might be returning to an abusive home, then he would not be taken home but would rather be taken to a place of safety.

Second, we are including an amendment with respect to curfew. Under the existing legislation it clearly says that a child under the age of 16 should not be in a public place between the hours of 12 midnight and six o'clock unless he or she is accompanied by a responsible adult. That seems reasonably straightforward. However, it has been brought to our attention that police forces

and courts have had some difficulty in interpreting what we mean by a responsible adult.

We have been given some examples that we thought had stretched the interpretation a bit, but, nevertheless, that is what people are using out there. That is the danger that kids are in. Therefore, we have changed that wording to mean that a responsible adult is one who is approved by the parents.

I want to attempt to clear up one little problem here. A number of people whom we have consulted about this particular section indicated: "Does that mean you are going to pick up any kid on the street between 12 o'clock midnight and 6 a.m.? For example, are you going to pick up a kid who is on his way home from a movie? Are you going to pick up a paper carrier at 5:30 in the morning who is delivering the *Globe and Mail*?"

That is not the intent at all. In fact, it is in the existing legislation. If anyone wanted to abuse that privilege, it is in the existing regulation. It is not being abused in that way, and we have consulted widely with the peace officers across the province and with child protection workers. We have been assured that, in fact, no one intends to use it in that way.

The peace officers simply want legislative authority to pick up kids such as a 13-year-old girl in downtown Toronto, Ottawa, London or Kitchener-Waterloo, wherever it happens to be, at two or three o'clock in the morning when she is in the company of someone who does not look to be an appropriate adult.

I want to clear up as much as possible the fact that anything can be abused. We know that, when we draft legislation, we have to make it as general as possible, but, in this particular case, we have been very, very careful to ensure that, in fact, it would not be misused.

The third amendment is with respect to a children's aid society ward who has run away and who is apprehended and brought back. The new legislation makes it clear there would not need to be a second hearing to find a child in need of protection. That has already been done once. It does not need to be done a second time.

The fourth amendment is with respect to a child who is currently in open detention or open custody as determined by the courts. If a child runs away from one of those situations, with this amendment we are now going to permit the provincial director to move that child from open custody or open detention into secure detention only while he is awaiting a hearing before the courts again. That is quite a practical one, because, if you have a child in open custody or

open detention and he insists on running away, you cannot tie him up. We do not have that right. We do not have those kinds of rights of restraint. Therefore, one has to do something while one is awaiting a court hearing. In that case, the provincial director, under this amendment, would have the right to place the child in secure detention.

A fifth amendment has to deal with secure treatment. This is one of the ones that was in the original act but was not proclaimed because there were some difficulties with its implementation. It was clearly brought to our attention by medical authorities like psychiatrists and the providers of secure treatment service such as those at Youthdale here in the city of Toronto that the provisions in the original legislation simply were not workable. The original legislation said you had to get court approval before you could put a child in short-term secure treatment, and I want to underline "short-term." There is another procedure altogether with respect to long-term. With the backups in the courts, it simply was not in the best interests of children.

I would point out to my colleagues, and we have done a careful survey of this, that the majority of children who would be affected by this would be those who had been placed in a hospital because of a crisis situation, an emergency situation, and would have been there for three or four days while the crisis calmed down. Then the medical authorities would say: "This child must go into treatment immediately. He cannot wait for three, four or five weeks while some court decides it is time for him to go." In most cases, under those circumstances, the treatment can be completed in two to three weeks. Therefore, the provision in this amendment deals with a maximum of 30 days.

There are safeties built into it right at the beginning. Within 24 hours, the office of the provincial child advocate must be advised and he must either come in person or appoint someone to speak to the child and be sure the child and his parents or guardians are fully apprised of their rights with respect to liberty. Within seven days, the office of the official guardian branch must make legal representation available to this child, if they want to take advantage of it. But this is for short-term, secure treatment; it is not for long-term.

Finally, there is an amendment, once again, that was in the original legislation but was not proclaimed, with respect to medical records. We are dealing here primarily with records with respect to emotional behaviour, psychiatric

records, if you will. This amendment allows children to have the same protection as adults under the Mental Health Act, which means a physician would have the right to go before a judge in a private hearing to explain why the child's records should not be made available in a public court hearing. The judge then has the sole authority to make the decision whether or not they would be used.

Obviously, the physician is only going to do this when he or she has reason to believe that it is not in the best interests of the child for these records to be brought out in a public court hearing or that there might be a danger to someone else, as the case may be.

In closing, I want to point out that we have passed out these amendments far and wide to all the people who we were aware would have an interest in them and who would be impacted by them. We have approached the police, parents, providers, judges and children's aid societies. By far and away, we have a large degree of support.

We have two kinds of opposition. On the one hand, we have an organization known as Justice for Children that in fact clearly has said that we have gone too far, that we are interfering to too great an extent with the rights of children. On the other hand, we have had a couple of children's aid societies who clearly have said that we have not gone far enough, that it is not good enough just to pick up these kids and take them home because they are just going to run again, and that we have to put in legislation something that is going to hold them once they are picked up.

Let me go back again. The whole purpose of these amendments is to try to strike a reasonable balance between the best interests of children—our children, the members' and mine—and the rights of children in a society that values the rights of all people.

We believe these amendments are reasonable. We believe they meet the test of time of the past two and a half years that has allowed us to use the existing legislation to give it a chance to work. We believe it responds to other activities in which we have engaged to try to deal with these issues in other ways that just simply did not work.

I ask my colleagues to consider them very carefully, to consider that balance between best interests and rights, and to support this legislation on behalf of the children of Ontario.

1550

Mr. Allen: I rise on behalf of our party to comment upon the bill and to indicate that we are not going to be supporting the minister's intent in

all of these amendments. We do believe, in the words he used, that he has "gone too far."

We understand that this is a very serious question. We understand the distress of parents which surrounds the absence of children and their disappearance when they run away from home. We understand the concern about curfew. We understand the concern for the apprehension of the children. We understand quite clearly that there are unfortunate things that do happen to children who have run away. Those are serious matters and we take them very seriously.

At the same time, I would want to say that there are many elements that go into addressing that situation, not simply the kinds of provisions and amendments that the minister is laying before us this afternoon.

The minister referred to the early period in which the Child and Family Services Act was in the process of debate and gestation; the committee hearings; the long consideration that was given to the paper that was developed by George Thomson, for example, and the way in which that was developed into legislation; and the contribution that my colleague the member for Scarborough West made to that process. He will be following me in this debate with some extensive comments arising out of his experience and his reflections in that earlier process: what was intended for this legislation, how it worked out and what his reflections are on the present amendments as well.

I would remind the minister of one thing. If one picks up those documents, one notes, for example, very early in one of the summary statements: "It is important to see the legislative proposals as only one part of a much more general approach to improving Ontario's children's services system. Thus the law should be seen in the context of the many nonlegislative policy, program and organizational developments within the ministry." Throughout the consultation paper an attempt is made to put the legislative proposals into this broader context.

What I want to remind the minister and the government of is this. If we go out these days and discuss some of those other nonlegislative, nonlegal devices for responding to this problem, namely, the situation of children's service workers in organizations such as the children's aid society or Justice for Children, or if we look at any of the agencies that bear upon this particular problem, we find among other things a very consistent refrain, namely, a refrain of underfunding, inadequate provision for sufficient staff. Workers who are working with these

very children, with their parents, with foster homes, with halfway houses and so on, simply find that their resources are so inadequate that they are burning out.

We know, for example, in relation to secure detention, that secure detention can be accomplished, on the one hand, by locking a kid up or, on the other hand, by making certain that the staff-child ratios are such that it is possible to maintain a constant watch on the development of symptoms and on the development of reactive behaviour and to respond to that at early stages, in such a way that it is possible to contain the behaviour and the young person. But we have found that in spite of the insistent demand of those agencies for adequate funding and staff, the response has not been forthcoming.

What we have in fact is a series of amendments that attempt, therefore, to strengthen the hand of the state instrument, of the police, of instruments of aid through professionals such as medical personnel and child care workers, in such a way as to artificially respond to this problem, if you like—not really to meet it head-on in a fundamentally preventive and therapeutic way.

One notes, for example, in this summary and in the other documents such as the consultation paper on the Children's Act, that there are a number of elements that went into the reflection around the legislation in the first place. For example, it was emphasized that the present definition of "child in need of protection" should be replaced by grounds that are more precise and objective and focus on the serious harm or risk of such harm to the child, and it goes on to list a whole series of potential elements of risk in the documentation that led up to the act.

While the minister has said that the intent in these amendments is to provide more specific grounds and to be more definite, I would certainly take issue with him that some of them are much broader grounds and much more general grounds than exist in the present legislation, that, therefore, they do in fact limit right in a much more precise and grievous way and that he is not in fact doing what he said he is doing.

I find, for example, that the recent editorial in the *Toronto Star* agrees with precisely that point: that it has not been a matter of precision, of tightening up definitions, of being more precise but that, in fact, the minister has opened up the act at these points in some unfortunate ways. One notes, for example, with respect to the question of the broadening of grounds—and I will read a portion from the consultation paper because I think it is important that we go back to the

mentality that lay behind the initiation of this legislation. This will be a fairly extensive couple of paragraphs, but I think it is important. It reads:

"The existing grounds for involuntary intervention are contained in the definition of a 'child in need of protection.' There are several problems with the definition:

"First, many of the grounds are defined in extremely broad and vague language. For example, the definition permits involuntary intervention if 'a child is found associating with an unfit or improper person' or 'living in an unfit or improper place' or 'where the person in whose charge the child is is unable to control the child.'"

I would submit that many of those phrases are the kind of phrases the minister was using in his presentation this afternoon, and yet the commentary goes on:

"Such phrases are obviously open to a wide variety of interpretations. Case law has provided some assistance by establishing that, despite the vague language, a child should not be found to be in need of protection unless the care of the child falls below the minimum standard of care in Canadian society. However, this general rule fails to give parents and children fair warning when intervention may occur and fails to give adequate guidance to agencies and courts in their attempts to protect children. Without clearly defined criteria, agency workers, in particular, are put in the unenviable position of having to make extremely difficult value judgements, based on limited information, in deciding whether or not to intervene. They are often in an almost impossible, no-win situation. If they do intervene, they may be criticized for 'needlessly disrupting families.' If they do not intervene, they may be criticized for 'failing to stop a preventable tragedy from occurring.' Of course, it is neither possible nor desirable to eliminate all subjectivity from these decisions. They will always necessarily be difficult decisions and the present legislative vagueness can be reduced considerably.

"Second, most of the grounds fail to identify the specific harms from which children are to be protected. The examples given above are subject to this criticism. Another example is the clause that allows intervention if a child's 'morals may be endangered by the conduct of the person in whose charge the child is.' Even if it were possible to reach an agreement on the meaning of these grounds, it must be recognized that they will allow involuntary intervention on the basis of parental behaviour or home conditions without

requiring any showing that the child is actually being harmed (or that there is substantial risk that he may be harmed) by the behaviour of the parents or conditions in the home. The assumption seems to be that we can predict harm to the child based on parental behaviour. However, research indicates that it is very difficult or impossible to correlate such factors of parental lifestyle with specific harm to the child, especially if one is trying to predict long-range detriment to the child's development. Thus, the risk of inappropriate intervention is increased."

I would suggest, turning to the amendments, that those comments apply very much to the absence of definition of "risk" that the minister is now allowing with respect to where the child may happen to be if he is not in the parents' home. The parent, having some concern that the child is not at home—and obviously I, as a parent, sympathize with the kinds of feelings that a person might have and the kind of imagination that one might entertain as to what is going on in regard to that youngster, but that does not mean necessarily that the child is in fact at risk.

1600

With respect to the first proposal the minister has made regarding the apprehension of runaway children, this does move back in another way to the original situation we came from, where there was not sufficient definition of "risk." For example, in this proposal there is no requirement that the child be in need of protection, that he is at risk and in any way endangered. There is no demonstration of that required for the parent to be allowed the luxury of a warrant for the apprehension of the child. There is no requirement that the child be a runaway as opposed to simply not being at home. There is no requirement that the child be below the age of 16 years. Parents are given an absolute right under this to control the liberty of their children and are invited to use the state to enforce that right. It might be the case that they are at risk, but there is no evidence necessary to be adduced to demonstrate that point.

It really does seem to me that this is an amendment we have to look at very carefully, because it could well be challenged under the Charter of Rights. It might well be an issue that would become the subject of some major litigation, and I think that we do not want that to happen with respect to an amendment that seeks to do some good and ends up doing otherwise.

It really does seem to me, and certainly the Star editorial writers who did some investigating on this subject agree with me and agree with

Justice for Children, that the provision is superfluous. The children at whom the amendment appears to be aimed are not necessarily at risk or out past midnight. There is plenty of power in the hands of the police and the children's aid society at the moment, as I see it, to apprehend any child under the age of 16 years whom they reasonably believe to be at risk. I have not seen any substantial definition or argument that that is not the case. At the present time, certainly in the difficult hours of the day when one would suspect that a child might be more at risk, namely, in the hours from 12 a.m. to 6 a.m., there is the capacity to apprehend children on reasonable grounds if they are not in the company of some responsible party.

When the minister presented this to us critics in his office a few months ago, he used the example that the police really felt they did not have power to intervene if a child seemed to be in the company of somebody in a pink suit alongside a stretch limousine of very fancy proportions. I would submit—

Interjection.

Mr. Allen: Oh, that was the member for—I had forgotten. Yes, he was in the House earlier. I did not want to refer inadvertently to a member in the Legislature who might be misidentified, so I will take back the colour of the suit. I will not impugn the member for Mississauga West (Mr. Mahoney).

It certainly does appear to me that present legislation does allow that kind of apprehension to take place and that children who might be, for example, out with an older teenager over the age of 16 at 12:30 at night should not be at risk if they are on the streets and simply coming home late. They may be in wilful defiance of parental authority, that may be true, and indeed be out even later than that. But that does not necessarily mean they are at risk, and I am not sure that police should be invited to intervene in those situations.

It is not clear that all experience would indicate that when children run from home they are in a dangerous situation. It can certainly easily be that children may be staying at the home of a friend because they find a conflicted situation in their household, whether or not such severe conditions as sexual abuse or incest are involved. They may, for various reasons, be at an aunt's home, an uncle's home or a grandparent's place.

It does seem to me that, for the parent to be able to secure a warrant, and indeed a warrant that does not necessarily have to indicate the place the child has to be apprehended, allows for

too serious an intervention in that child's life and in the life of a relative who may be performing a very helpful and well-meaning service at that time.

There appears to be some part of this argument which focuses on the consent of a parent in a situation where a child has withdrawn from the care and control of the other parent in separated-parent situations. It is unclear, certainly to me and to some others, why action should be permitted or necessary under this amendment in that case.

Generally, when a child runs from home, there are problems, and often very serious ones. I do not think the section really guarantees sufficient protection to the young person being apprehended and returned to that household situation. The minister has said that the guidelines, the protocols around that kind of circumstance, where a child runs from an abusive situation, will allow the police somehow to ascertain whether the child is being returned to a harmful situation.

That is not immediately apparent to me. It certainly seems to me unlikely that the young person being apprehended and perhaps apprehended in a fairly physical way is likely to communicate to the apprehending officer the nature of the problem he is fleeing. It is not necessarily evident that a police officer who believes in the discipline of a home and so on, in a too-firm kind of way, would necessarily listen if that were communicated to him.

It seems to me that there is, perhaps, in many of these instances the minister referred to of the 12,000 children who are runaways in this city—I would personally like to know, and I do not think there is really any research that tells me, how much risk what proportion of those children are at and whether the risk they are suffering on the street is greater than the risk they may suffer at home. It is by no means obvious that that is always the case or even usually the case.

I remain quite unconvinced by this section that deals with runaway children and increasing the capacity of parents to secure warrants for their return without having to convince or provide substantial testimony to a justice of the peace or an apprehending officer that the child is at risk.

If the minister were to proceed with this section, and he probably has the numbers in committee and so on to do that if he wishes, it would be useful for him to look to a number of the elements of section 40c that certainly, in some specific form, need some attention.

For example, it would seem to be helpful to have the meaning of "parent" clarified. By

subsection 40c(1), "parent" is defined to include "a person, other than an individual, that has custody of the child." This is presumably not intended to cover wards of the children's aid society, who are mentioned specifically under section 40a, so the purpose and intent with respect to this subsection are rather unclear.

The section also should specify that it applies to children under the age of 16 years. I have referred already to the fact that it does not do so, and that puts children who are normally not considered to be the subjects of this kind of legislation at risk in terms of their rights.

The legislation should provide also, I think, more amply for young people who are mature and who wish to present a case to a judge for a plan for their own independent existence. They may wish to pursue an independent life and they may, in fact, have the means to do so without being involved in circumstances of risk to themselves, morally, physically or in other respects.

1610

They should have an opportunity to make that case and to put it, because it might well be that they can handle their own lives, in point of fact, better than they are being handled in the home from which they have come.

Furthermore, and finally on this particular section, the section should require that all warrants to apprehend a child be made by a judge and be based on some objective assessment of the risk. I have already said why I think that is necessary. I think the section invites parents to use police intervention in situations where a young person is simply defying his or her parents' authority or is returning home late and the child is being set upon by the police.

I do not think most responsible homes need to have apprehension of their children by the state in such circumstances and I think irresponsible homes are probably wise not to have that power. I have some serious problems with that section and, therefore, we oppose it.

There has been some reference by the minister and, of course, in this act to concerns that peace officers and child workers do not have sufficient protection against suits taken against them which put them in a liable position.

Again, I would simply have to say to the minister that I have not heard the arguments that really convince me that is the case. Those arguments, taken together with the arguments that he has been presented with by the police for their not acting as vigorously as they might in the apprehension of children really seem to me to beg

the question as to whether someone—the minister, perhaps the Solicitor General (Mrs. Smith), perhaps the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) or perhaps all three—ought not to have some long, heart-to-heart talks with the police commissioners, the chiefs of police and, through them, their police officers in terms of the implementation of the legislation as it exists.

I really do not buy the argument that is cited in the Toronto Star editorial: “The police say this curfew provision does not permit them to apprehend teenagers in the company of pimps. The police are afraid that a court might find the pimp or john to be ‘a responsible person’ as outlined in the law.” One would simply have to agree with the Star, for example, that a court that would actually rule this way really seems highly unlikely.

That would be, I think, to assume or to argue that our judges and our legal representatives involved in such cases really do not have their wits about them either, and I think that raises a lot of questions with regard to the justice system.

Might I then go on to another section of the bill, the detail that deals with the questions of secure detention and grounds for emergency admission? Here again, the legislation does not become more precise. It becomes more general. A young person who simply runs away from a facility, regardless of whether there is any demonstrable substantial risk, can now, under these amendments, be apprehended and put into secure detention simply on the grounds that he or she has made, in the heat of some argument at a halfway house, some threat. They may make a threat which appears to direct bodily harm at some other person or to express some threat to engage in some harm towards themselves.

It would seem to me that a young person in circumstances of normally open custody, open restraint, is often in a situation or could be in situations of altercation with workers in the home in question, in the place of residence, where those kinds of threats might be made, and made quite idly, but might be none the less accompanied by emotional outbursts and a departure from the place of residence.

I do not think that, in itself, should imply that the person is at risk to himself or a risk to others. I would like to hear more evidence that this would in fact be the case. Personally, I certainly would not want young people to be put in secure detention in those circumstances, and as I say, I would like to hear further argument to make it plain to me that would be necessary.

My impression is that with regard to grounds for emergency admission, these grounds could lie at some distant point from the moment at which the charge is made with respect to the risk that the person lays himself under that he might attempt to cause bodily harm. There is no limitation in time that makes the emergency detention closely associated with an event that demonstrates serious risk.

The amendment would seem, for example, to permit the application of emergency detention not just weeks but even months after the event in question. Surely the original legislation, as I remember it without having it all here before me, said that had to take place within a short time after the event in question. That now appears to have been removed. The circumstances have been loosened. In other words, the grounds have become more generalized and therefore the particular rights of young people in those circumstances are, I think, at greater risk.

I would also oppose the amendments to clause 116(1a)(c) which provide that a physician, with the written consent of the administrator of the facility, could apply for an order extending a person’s commitment to a secure treatment program beyond the person’s 18th birthday without the consent of the person.

I am very, very unhappy, and my colleagues would be very unhappy, with any provision where an 18-year-old adult would be in fact confined in secure custody without his or her own consent. That clearly is contrary to law. If there are grounds for doing it, it can surely be done without the arbitrary extension simply on the written statement of a physician advising an administrator who gives a written consent.

That simply invites challenges in the courts which are unnecessary, and I am sure the minister can find other ways to help those in the field to find other ways to respond to that particular need, if the need in fact exists in a given case for further confinement beyond the 18th birthday. But it is quite illegitimate in law and we certainly do not support that provision as it stands at the moment.

1620

We have some concerns also with the notion that the Child and Family Services Review Board should be vested with the power to review a young person’s committal in a treatment facility. There are points and ways in which the children’s services review board or other agencies which involve social work—for example, groups of social workers advising in the legal process—and I think of the minister’s own recent moves in the

direction of alternative measures, where certainly it facilitates the legal process and the young person's best interests to have a process of intervention that does not necessarily go through the legal proceedings and through the whole process of court application and litigation. But where, in fact, one is providing for secure custody for young people and where, in fact, liberty is being deprived in an obvious physical way, regardless of reasons, it does seem to me that the court should be directly involved in that kind of a determination.

Similarly, again with respect to the proposed subsection 118(9), for example, where a child is in such secure custody, any review of that situation would have to be at the request of the young person, that is also, I think, quite inappropriate. There should be provision for automatic review on a short-term, periodic basis so that there is no place for intimidation, so that it does not rest upon the young person to have to initiate that kind of proceeding. There must be, from our point of view, a clear and obvious mechanism for that secure custody to be reviewed, the circumstances and the necessity for it to be determined and the continuance of it to be authorized in clear terms where it is necessary for that young person to remain in custody.

I do not want to say anything at this point about what the minister has proposed with regard to a child's right to legal representation, but there are some concerns there and I want to hear more about that. It is for all of these reasons that we will want these amendments to go out to committee. But again, there are potential Charter of Rights and Freedoms challenges in the minister's proposals and we want to be sure that there really are not grounds in fact.

I am not quite as concerned about the matters concerning psychotropic drugs and the question of risk. Some persons have suggested that the language of this amendment should refer to "any risks" rather than "the risks." That is a fine point that I am not prepared to argue. I do not see that there is a great deal lost or gained one way or the other in that language.

The minister may smile that we are not quite as disturbed about that one as we are about some of the others, and we may let him get by on that one.

Finally, with respect to the disclosure of records, we all know what the records of our individual cases—medically, legally, personally—in the school system convey for our futures when they are indiscriminately used. I am sure the minister does not intend that any indiscriminate use be made of the records of the young people in

question under this section of the act that he proposes to amend. None the less, it does appear to me that the records that may be transmitted in the cases in question will not be confined to purely professional judgement; the judgement, for example, of a physician with regard to the medical condition of the young person in question.

There is frequently a lot in those records that contains extraneous comment, anecdotal record and what have you. I am not at all convinced that this part of the legislation prevents that part of the record from being transmitted unduly to persons and places where it might be inappropriately used.

We have some very substantial and far-reaching concerns with this legislation. I know the minister has submitted the amendments to us with the best of intentions. I understand that he is trying to respond to difficulties in application and administration out there in the field, but I am not persuaded and my colleagues are not persuaded that this is the best way to respond to those objections in the field.

I will come back to my original point. For us, the first response needs to be making certain that the agencies that are out there engaged in this kind of work, whether it is the police, whether it is children's aid societies, whether it is legal bodies in defence of children or others, have the personnel, have the resources at their disposal in order to do their job properly, and as a result, many of the problems in some aspects of the amendments that are put forward might well be obviated and the response of the minister and those who wish him to respond in this way not necessary at all.

We look forward to seeing this legislation go to committee. We feel it does need some very careful listening to groups in the community, even to parents who may feel they want to put their own arguments to us as to why they feel this is either the proper or the improper way to go with respect to runaways, curfews, etc. We will want to draw our own conclusions in the course of listening to those presentations as to whether we feel that our objections that we sense at this point to be quite well justified are in fact so justified.

I will conclude my remarks and hope that the minister will take note of the points that we have made and that we shall meet him on another occasion, in committee, listening to those who would wish to make further comment from the community on this very important legislation.

Mrs. Cunningham: I would take this opportunity to speak to the Child and Family Services Amendment Act and to commend the government for taking the time to listen to the concerns of the child protection workers, the departments of police, parents and certainly others who are working with children in our communities.

Although I am speaking in favour of the amendments that are put forth and asking ultimately that the bill be referred to committee so that those persons who have advised us that they have specific concerns will have an opportunity to present them to the committee, I would say that it is not that we are unaware that there are many support services needed in our communities to help these young children we are referring to this afternoon and to their families. On future occasions we will have many opportunities, I am sure, to talk to the Minister of Community and Social Services about concerns that do impact upon this legislation and other ways that we can help children who are at risk in our communities and families who are in need of services that are simply not there.

It is our understanding that the bill does provide for several changes in the Child and Family Services Act which will make it easier for child protection workers to apprehend runaways. It is furthermore our understanding that the ministry has been consulting with police forces and children's aid societies since the act's proclamation some four years ago. These amendments are as a result of these consultations.

We too have been in touch with many agencies and different departments of government that are working with families and certainly with children who are considered runaways. In response to their concerns, there are of course some objections that we would like to draw to the attention of the House this afternoon.

The bill does give the police and child protection workers authority to apprehend runaway children on their parents' request. We think this is an addition to the present act and probably quite a responsible amendment. Provision is made for the issuance of a warrant on the parents' information.

1630

The bill eliminates the need for a new hearing to determine whether the child is in need of protection if the child is a ward of the children's aid society. We think this also is a step in the correct direction.

Of concern, of course, are the existing curfew provisions. They are somewhat strengthened by this amendment by clarifying that children under

the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent or by an individual 18 years of age or older who is appointed by the parent. These children are out between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. They are the ones who are of concern.

The amendments that seem to be causing the greatest concern to those people who deal with these young children are the curfew provisions, which have been referred to previously this afternoon. There is concern that they will interfere with employment for these young people, and those of us who are very much aware that young people under the age of 16 have jobs that keep them working in the service industries, on paper routes and other jobs that require them either to walk home or take public transit, hope that children who are acting responsibly and with the approval of their parents will not be apprehended for breaking the curfew provisions.

In accepting this amendment, at least until we hear further or can be persuaded otherwise, hopefully at committee, it is not without some reservations and with some trust, and that is trust in the persons whom we delegate authority to; namely, the police. We hope that they will use their good judgement and that they will respect the rights of children.

The reason the curfew provisions are being tightened is that as the act stands now, if a 12-year-old is accompanied by an adult whom he or she claims is responsible for him or her, the police cannot apprehend that young person and that raises some concern. As the minister introduced this bill this afternoon, he spoke to that concern in the House.

Child protection workers have advised us that they are in favour of the changes, because they will enable them to provide greater protection to child runaways, so we are interested in listening to the presentations by those child protection workers at the committee further down the road.

In talking to Inspector John Robinson of the London Police Force over a period of time as we have watched these amendments proceed, he feels in his work that it is appropriate that between midnight and 6 a.m., children should be under the supervision of someone who has been approved by a parent. He feels this will give him some support, or at least more support, in his work.

As I said before, young people's rights must be respected and we trust common sense will prevail as professionals out there in the field carry on with their work.

We have also heard from a group called Justice for Children, which we have been in contact

with. They are very much concerned about the curfew provisions. We are hoping that in the presentations to the committee this bill can be referred to, I think as quickly as possible, that particular group will raise its concerns so that if we have missed anything, we can support it in those deliberations.

I would just like to close by saying that we think the amendments are reasonable and that the judgement of those whom we trust to implement these amendments will be of the highest professionalism, so that the rights of children will not be taken for granted or challenged by those who do not always show the professionalism we would hope for. We will be watching very carefully during the committee hearings. I just offer those few words in speaking to the amendments that have been presented this afternoon.

Mr. Morin: I rise today to participate in the debate on Bill 107, An Act to amend the Child and Family Services Act.

The proposed amendments effectively address two important subject areas: first, the need for certain statutory changes regarding the apprehension and control of runaway children; and second, the need for a provision relating to the disclosure of records regarding a person with a mental disorder.

The amendments introduced by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) provide a delicate balance between the rights of children and their need for protection. Bill 107 is the result of consultation with child welfare agencies and it represents an effort by the ministry to fine-tune the Child and Family Services Act after its first two years of operation.

Acknowledging a problem is the first step towards solving it. When our police, educators, probation and social service representatives come together in recognition of a problem such as runaway children, it is incumbent upon us as legislators to develop a reasoned response. This requires an ongoing review of legislation in order to make sure we are meeting our objectives. Experience with the Child and Family Services Act during its first two years of operation, as well as continued consultation with child welfare agencies, has identified the need for certain changes regarding the apprehension, care and protection of runaway children. For all of us, the proposed amendments offer a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel, reminding us that legislation is not carved in stone.

In Metro Toronto last year, police received 5,080 reports of runaway behaviour. Estimates

suggest that between 60,000 and 100,000 children between the ages of 10 and 16 run away each year. These statistics are discouraging and frustrating and point most graphically to the need for the amendments the minister has proposed. It is against this onerous background that we have made some changes to the Child and Family Services Act.

We think it is wise, for example, to change the curfew law for youth in Ontario. Right now the law states that a child on the streets between midnight and 6 a.m. must be accompanied by an adult. That is simply not enough to prevent that child from facing a potential threat. Under the present legislation, a 13-year-old girl in the presence of a 35-year-old man at three o'clock in the morning is not against the law. In Toronto on a Friday or Saturday night, we have come to realize that this may not be in the best interests of that child, so amendments to the act will now require that the adult must be someone who is approved of by the child's parents.

Up until now, police, parents, the crown and children's aid societies have had an almost impossible task in getting many runaway kids off the streets and back into the safety of their own homes or shelters. Quite honestly, there was no appropriate mechanism to apprehend them. But under the proposed changes in the act, it will now be possible for parents and other responsible parties to have their runaway children apprehended following the issue of a warrant. If the child does not want to go home, because of parental abuse, then he or she would be taken to a place of safety. This is an example of how we have had to wrestle with the right of a young person and weigh that right against the child's best interests.

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We have also made other changes in the act. These include a mechanism through which runaways who are wards of the crown can be picked up by the police or child care workers without first having a new hearing finding them in need of protection. Also, runaways and kids who have escaped from open detention or a custody centre could now be placed in a secure place of detention. Kids who are in need of a place to stay in an emergency will now find that they can be admitted more easily into secure treatment centres. Child care givers will be permitted to hold closed hearings to find whether a child's psychological records should be brought into court hearings.

Sometimes, the laws specially designed to protect children and youth seem to make the job

more difficult. I would like to quote Inspector John Dennis, head of family and youth services for the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force. Inspector Dennis welcomes the proposed amendments and states, "We need the power to act fast to break the runaway cycle."

We have the opportunity to act positively to break the runaway cycle Inspector Dennis sees every day through his work with street kids. I believe we are fundamentally obliged to seize this opportunity and to take action to protect some of the most vulnerable members of our society. We are not always smarter than our children, but we do have the benefit of experience and hindsight. These amendments have been accurately described as a balance, and more important, a workable balance.

I urge all members to support these important amendments as we continue to seek creative and innovative ways to deal with the complicated problems of troubled youth.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Madame la Présidente: I love it when they feminize the French terms these days.

I want to say a few words about this amendment which, on the face of it, may not seem to be that significant an amendment in the life of the Legislature. But as somebody who has been involved in the process of the revision of the old Child Welfare Act and the 11 or so other acts that were combined to make the proposed Children's Act, and then finally the Child and Family Services Act, and was involved in that process in the standing committee on social development for almost three years—two and a half years—I want to speak at some length about the proposals and my regrets about the direction in which the government is moving.

Putting it in a bit of a historical context, if I might, as I know the minister himself did a little bit as he made his opening remarks, I just want to remind members about the process that was undertaken.

In the fall of 1982, this document, The Children's Act, was produced, written by Dick Barnhorst and the work of a great committee of people, with the influence of George Thomson, the assistant deputy minister at that time, being evident in it in terms of its very progressive thrust.

It was an attempt to take this piece of legislation, the old Child Welfare Act and a number of other pieces of legislation, including the new young offenders legislation that was coming federally at the time, and put them together into a new omnibus bill reflecting the

rights of children in our society, both in terms of need of protection and their rights within care, their rights within long-term institutions and in terms of their running afoul of the law.

The law we were dealing with at that time was not a very progressive law and only a few changes had been made to it in any substantive way prior to our starting to deal with this in 1982.

There is always a pendulum swing when it comes to this kind of legislation and I would term this to be a fairly right-wing, parental-control, authoritarian-style piece of legislation in terms of its notion of the role of children in our society. It was responded to in a very progressive way in this document and the swing was seen by some people to have gone far too far in terms of the rights of children. What took place in the next two years, from the time this was brought forward in October 1982 until it was finally passed as law late in 1984, was a rationalization, a move back to the centre, if I can put it that way, of the pendulum swing between the rights of children in society versus those of the state and of the various bureaucracies we have, whether it is the children's aid society, the police or the mental health professionals of Ontario and their rights in terms of treatment and care or protection of those kids.

We spent a lot of time on it. The first thing that happened was that we held hearings in the spring of 1983, long hearings with many, many groups before us. I was just saying to the minister that I unfortunately filed all my documentation of this, presuming I would never have to fight the same battles again before I left politics, but since I am here today and the bill is here, I am forced to do so.

Coming out of that consultation process before the standing committee on social development, and behind the scenes with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, Frank Drea's ministry, another document was produced about a year later, a draft piece of legislation, the Child and Family Services Act. That act, and I will come to this in a few minutes, made a number of changes from the approach Dick Barnhorst's paper had taken, took a number of steps backward from the real enfranchisement, as I saw it, of children in our society and some real understanding of the needs of the various professionals involved with the protection of children and the treatment of children. It is my view it made some compromises I wish we had not made.

It was during a period of majority government. It was a tough time for a member of the

opposition to try to bring the social development committee to the point of coming through with an entirely progressive piece of legislation, but by the time 1984 came around and we had a second set of hearings on this proposed legislation, we did come up with a good act. I just wish I had been there at the last. It was the time of my heart attack, and unfortunately I was not able to be there for the final debate in the House. I have since had concerns that perhaps if I had been there, some of the things that were not dealt with might have been dealt with. One always has these aggrandized notions of one's effect on the process.

I want to put this new piece of legislation in this context. We spent a lot of time dealing with this. We heard from the psychiatrists and their views of what was involved with secure treatment, why psychotropic drugs should be used and the kinds of controls their communities should have in that area. We heard from the police and others in terms of what they saw as problems that might develop with the law. We listened a great deal and I thought we came through with a piece of legislation that was pretty good but had some flaws in it.

The minister says, and he is right, that no matter how well you write a piece of legislation, there is always need to reopen it because it is never going to be interpreted exactly as you would think. That is certainly the case in a dangerous situation when it is not interpreted legally by the judges in the way we had wanted it to be written.

But my view of what is taking place here in terms of this amendment is that we are not responding to that kind of legal interpretation of what we wrote, that the problems we are dealing with here are not judges' problems. They are in fact problems the police have with the enforcement of this legislation and their interpretation of our present legislation, not that of judges; and it is an interpretation of the psychiatric community, which is what this present piece of legislation is trying to deal with and not, again, the real need for protection of rights or the lack of protection of rights that judges may have seen in terms of kids coming before them.

If we then have to deal with this legislation, as the minister has said, to deal with the deficiencies that may be there in the perceptions that are incorrect in terms of what we are after but need to be clarified, then I would just say to the minister that this bill should have been an awful lot bigger than it is today and should not have had the concentration that it has today.

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I would just remind members of what this large bill is about and what it talks about. It talks about the whole definition of a child in need of protection. It talks about the need for preventive programs to assist kids. If I look at what has happened to the children's aid societies in the period of time since we passed this legislation—or, even farther back, to when we were considering this legislation—and look at the financial constraints they have been under and the way they have had to cut back on preventive programs, the kind of programs we said were crucial if this kind of legislation was going to work, I would ask the minister why it is that we have not seen major action by this government on funding to the children's aid societies and on the questions of prevention? Why is there not the concentration, as far as amendments go, around the whole question of mandating treatment, of judges being able to actually order a children's aid society to provide certain kinds of programs—the kinds of things that were flaws that many of us saw in the way we developed this legislation? Why is it the minister has chosen the particular things that he has chosen to deal with here?

There is a whole section in here on adoption. Members should know that. This present set of amendments does not deal with the adoption sections at all and I would ask the minister again: if he is going to reopen this bill, rather than responding to what I consider the right-wing reactions of the police force to the legislation and a deliberate misreading of that legislation which we passed, why is it that he did not come in with the new changes to adoption procedures that we should see here?

I will take the members back, to make them understand that, as early as this consultation proposal in 1982, the idea of foster guardianship was raised, an idea which, because of reactions to it, was shelved during our committee hearings, but which is something which I think deserves to be looked at. If we are going to reopen this act, why did we not reopen that section and some of the progressive things that are being suggested?

Why is it we did not reopen the native sections? Why did we not raise again what Dick Barnhorst and his committee talked about? That is the notion of custom adoption, the fact that a band could adopt a child. It would not have to be seen to be just an individual adoption, as we do in white society. Why was that not, that very positive notion, an area of concentration for you when you reopened the bill? Why is it that we have to respond to the cops on this rather than to

some of these other constituents who have problems with this legislation?

I will deal at some length with the whole question of substantial risk and just remind the minister—I know he alluded to it—that we spent two years debating whether or not we should use the word “substantial,” whether we should even use the concept of being at risk. There were those who did not want us to do that because they thought it would take away too much from the rights of kids. There were some who wanted us to leave it as broad as we could so that interventions can be made more easily. We tried to balance that, the rights of a child to be treated like the rest of us and to demand that the onus be on the state and the minions of the state to prove that there is substantial risk, rather than use a vague word like “risk” which could be interpreted in a really general way.

I worry that we have, in one little amendment here—and this has been proposed—now thrown into jeopardy that entire concept. There is a section in here which members should know about, which we did not enact—a suggestion again from the Barnhorst paper—around some of the treatments and adverse behaviour techniques that are being used in our children’s mental health centres around the province of Ontario. We did not, I want members to understand, do what they suggested, that is rule out certain kinds of treatments as being unacceptable for kids. The minister knows that.

We did not put the kinds of controls on the use of psychotropic drugs, mind-altering drugs, that this group suggested we should use. We pulled back from that, and, if I look at what the minister is suggesting today, he is not suggesting an expansion of the prohibited grounds in this piece of legislation he is proposing. Instead, he is giving extra powers to the psychiatrist, not fewer powers.

There is a major question that this government should be totally embarrassed about, and that is the question of the Young Offenders Act. We still have two ministries dealing with it. We still have two ministries dealing with young people in totally different ways in this province, even though that was not the intent of the federal act.

If we are going to reopen the Child and Family Services Act, why on earth are we not dealing with that? If we really want to look at what is wrong for kids out there in the system in terms of the legal and enforcement areas of our society, I would suggest that the problems lie with the difference of treatment that is provided depending on your age as a young offender, not on

whether or not the police can actually intercede with a runaway or not. What we are dealing with, in a sense, is a straw man—I will come back to that—and not the meat of what the real problem is.

Do members know how hard we fought to deal with issues of whether or not a child should be put into secure isolation rooms, a practice that is used around this province in terms of fairly young kids? I will tell members, we spent a lot of time debating that and we made some positive changes in it; but there are some of us—me included—who would like to see even further restrictions on the use of that kind of punishment in the treatment of young people in this province. Why was that not reconsidered rather than again just a reaction to the lobby group of the police in terms of this act? This is a right-wing reaction that we are getting here. This is the pendulum swinging back, and there is nothing in this act that, for people like me, balances it with some kind of progressive move to greater rights in some of these areas that I am talking about.

The whole question of the right to treatment is not dealt with here and the right of judges to order treatment for kids who need it. It is a very emotional issue, about which members of the Liberal Party spoke as adamantly as I and other people did back a couple of years ago, and I am disappointed to see that it is not raised here.

I guess the government has chosen how it wants to reopen this bill, the limited fashion in which it wants to do it. I will tell members the two things the minister has done: he has decided he will respond to the false interpretation of the present act by the police, he responded to the pressure from the psychiatric community in the children’s mental health centres and he has responded to nothing else. I do not think that is a very positive symbol for a Liberal reform government to be pushing out there to society.

Let me deal with this whole question of responding to these two lobby groups.

The police: it was a couple of years ago, just after this act was completed, that I had discussions with the Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services and other high-ranking officials. They were under enormous pressure from the police in Ontario, especially in Metropolitan Toronto, to come through with the kinds of amendments that we now see before us today. They were worried about that. They did not want to see that happen. There was an awful lot of stuff in the press about it—cases of young offenders not being identified, not being able to be picked up when they were on the prostitution track down here in Toronto and that kind of thing—and a lot

of pressure to move in this kind of direction in the bill.

I was asked and I volunteered to take on that battle if they wanted me to—the minister was not involved in this discussion, I want to make clear, it was high-ranking officials in his ministry—that instead of the minister having to take on the fight with the police, which would be a difficult thing for him to do, I would join in that battle to protect the legislation as it exists and to protect what we knew was the correct interpretation of that legislation, which was not being questioned by anybody else but the police in Ontario.

Well, that call to arms was never asked for, although I did a few interviews on my own during that period. But the government did come through with its own little blue book, and again I thank the minister for allowing me to refer to it, as he did in his statement. This was produced in 1985, partially to counter that first salvo of attacks by the police.

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I do not know what could be clearer to the police in terms of an instruction from the ministry about what the existing act said and what powers we were giving them. But I tell members, this little blue book, as far as I am concerned, does it. It explains that children are individuals, with the same rights as the rest of us. It explains that police officers are given the same powers as child protection workers. It explains what substantial risk is and that the requirement that risk must be substantial means that it must be a real risk or an actual risk. That was the definition that we provided for them.

And this is specifically said to them in private and then in this publication: "But when you feel that child is in need of protection, you can interpret those grounds in as broad a way as you need to in order to save that child. You will be considered as a child protection worker when you do that. You will not be liable for any kind of class action against you if you take that strong interpretation and haul that kid off the street because you think she is going to be used by some pimp." That power is there within the existing act. It is simply necessary that the officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds that the child is in need of protection.

"You can err on the side of intervention when you are in doubt," is what this says. This is a very specific response to the members of that lobby, the kind of thing that should have been said in this House to them, that should have been said publicly to them and that should have quashed any move towards the kind of legislative change

that we have now seen. I really decry the day that in fact we have now given in to that pressure and have brought forward the kind of legislation that is presented today.

I have a more benevolent notion about the lobby of the second group and an understanding for the tense problems that the psychiatric profession feels when it is dealing with young people in terms of assisting them and hoping to keep them from the revolving doors of the psychiatric institutions that we have seen in the past decades.

While we were in our hearings process, they told us time and time again that they needed more control over the children. They needed certain kinds of rights and limitations of the rights of children to be released, etc. Without that, these kids would be in potential danger and not treated as appropriately as they should be.

Again, I believe we listened to all of those things, and I believe the act that we came through with was the best marriage possible of the rights of those children versus the rights of the professional to treat. Now we see that the government has decided to take from the children—and I will come specifically to those matters that are now reductions of their rights and protections under law—and to vest those rights in the psychiatric community and to say that in this Liberal government's view that is where the weight of our legislative action should go, and it is worth while and necessary at this time to withdraw the rights of the children involved.

Without knowing how much time I will actually have, let me start with some of the things that members may not have noticed in this act and ask them to really reconsider these moves before we get on with the business of getting into committee and hearing again from the public.

Under the present act it is necessary, under section 118—this is just an example—that a child would be released within five days after being admitted to secure treatment under subsection 2 unless—and again the burden of proof is then put back on the institution—that child should stay there.

Members should know that right has now been withdrawn. That section has been amended to take out any notion that there is an automatic presumption that the child shall be released unless the institution can prove that the child should stay.

Instead, we have replaced it with notice. Now what we have is the fact that under subsection 118(6), "The administrator shall ensure that within 24 hours after a child is admitted to a

secure treatment program under subsection 2," da-da, da-da; and it is notice to the advocate, it is notice to the official guardian, it has no automatic presumption of release within the five-day period, that disappears entirely.

One wonders why we have done that and wonders why, even if they are going to amend the timetable somewhat, that presumption should be taken away and why the onus should be reversed, which is essentially what takes place here.

Under the adult act, and I turn to my critic of the Ministry of Health to confirm this, there is a 72-hour process in which, automatically, the psychiatric professionals have to prove the need to have the person stay there or there is an automatic release. What we have done here is taken away the five-day period—not a three-day period, but a five-day period—replaced it with just a 24-hour notice and basically thought that is a progressive move. I would ask the Liberal reformers over there whether or not they like this particular change in terms of the rights to liberty of young people in Ontario.

We spent a lot of time on a previous section to this in our debates, because the old children's mental health centres act used to have a horrible section in it which said that if a child threatened somebody—in fact, these are almost the same words that are proposed in the new amendment—if the child has, a result of a mental disorder caused or attempted to cause—and this is the important part—or by words or conduct made a substantial threat to cause serious bodily harm to himself, herself or another person, then you can just automatically keep that person in secure custody after that for an extended period of time.

We debated that and thought, "Well, this is unreasonable, and it could be badly abused." A young person could be put into the position of a confrontation with a care giver and, in reaction to that confrontation, could explode and therefore this could be used against him. If it was done once, a year ago, six months ago, three weeks ago or four weeks ago in a moment of anger, that could be used as the reason automatically given for keeping that person in secure custody.

We took that out. I would just like to read the section, if I can. It is clause 118(2)(b), and it now reads, "The child has, as a result of the mental disorder, during the seven days immediately preceding the day of application, caused or attempted to cause," etc. We decided it had to be something that was imminently a problem, that the child, very recently before the application to have that child stay in secure treatment, should

have acted out in some way which was seen to be dangerous, but not an open-ended thing.

What this Liberal reform government has decided to do is to go back to the old law, to strike out any reference to time and leave it in the hands of the local professionals to decide whether something that was done 90 days ago or 180 days ago was something that should in fact be used as a reason for keeping this kid in secure custody from that time on.

I do not know what you think. This does not strike me as something that comes from a Liberal reformist, this strikes me as something that comes from a Conservative reactionary, and it is a very interesting change in the balance that has been made here between the rights of the individual to presume not to be put in secure custody and the rights of the professional to automatically put that person in there without any kind of justification. I just suggest that is a change which I regret a great deal and will, as forcefully as I can, speak against on a regular basis until, hopefully, they change their minds.

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The other thing we did in that legislation was to put some time limits on secure custody, the understanding being that we felt it was a pretty dangerous thing to have young kids locked up in secure treatment for extended periods of time. I remember bringing forward statistics which indicated that sometimes in Ontario there were young people who were in secure custody for an awfully long time in some of our institutions at that time. So a 180-day limit was put on. After that 180 days, there was an automatic review and that child would be automatically released from secure treatment unless the professionals could prove otherwise.

I suggest that if we read this legislation carefully, what has just taken place is that the 180-day limit has been lifted. There are references to it, but if you are one of those people who have a kid in secure treatment right now and, 150 days into their treatment, he acts out in some way or other, you can use the clause I just referred to, clause 118(2)(b), as a reason to have that child's period of incarceration in secure treatment added to. At that point, there is no limit to how long it can be.

I may have read that incorrectly, but I would like to see a subsection after that which says specifically where that time limit is. Again, notification is given to authorities, but I do not see anything there which states specifically that there is an automatic time limit. That has been lifted by this progressive, Liberal, reform

government—terms which increasingly seem to have less and less connection with reality.

Can we just deal with the question of the curfew? This was a tough one for us a number of years ago. The old Child Welfare Act had this antiquated notion of curfew placed in it. It read as follows, in those days subsection 54(2): "No person under 16 years of age shall loiter in any place to which the public has access between the hours of ten o'clock in the afternoon and six o'clock in the morning," except where accompanied by a parent, etc. Ten o'clock is what this thing said until we changed the law.

One of the bizarre things that happened during our consultation process, and I remember being blown away by this when it took place, was that when the draft legislation came down in late November 1983, the government added some things. "No person having charge of a child shall permit the child to (a) be employed in a place to which the public has access, loiter in a public place, be in a place of public entertainment, except as accompanied by the person or by an individual 18 years of age or older who was appointed by the person, between the hours of nine p.m. and six a.m." They even took it back an hour. I ask members to think about the reality of young people's lives in Ontario today and that kind of notion of curfew.

There was a lot of pressure from people to say there still is need to have an arbitrary hour put in, in terms of the right of adults to impose an hour, arbitrarily, without reason, for the protection of kids. So in the debate that took place, gradually, even though some of us moved that there was no need for this section, and I will come to that in a minute, there was a consensus on the committee that suggested we should go to midnight and that midnight should now be the witching hour, the magic hour upon which kids were suddenly in danger, automatically, if they are out there; not ten o'clock, not nine o'clock any more, but midnight. So a 15-year-old who is maybe out with her 17-year-old boyfriend is going to have to be in by midnight or be subject to being picked up by the cops automatically and taken to a place of safety, whatever that might be.

I think this is arcane legislation. I do not think it deals with the issue at hand. The minister, I hope, will remember our debate at that time. The debate around the whole piece of legislation came down to when is a child in need of protection. Is it because the clock strikes 10 or because a set of circumstances places that child in jeopardy? Surely it is the latter. There is nothing about the hour of the day which says anything

about a child being in jeopardy, but there is a lot that can be said about where a child may be found.

When I drive home, often along Wellesley and before I turn down Parliament on my way out to the east end, of late I have seen at five, six and seven o'clock as I drive home, depending on the day, young teenagers whom I would presume to be between the ages of 12 and 15—it gets harder to judge ages the older we get, I find; I would judge that—young girls who are clearly soliciting as prostitutes. The problem of their being in need of protection has everything to do with the fact that they are on the corner of that street and probably soliciting for some pimp. It has nothing to do with the fact that it is seven o'clock, six o'clock or five o'clock in the afternoon when I go by. They are as much in need of protection then as they are at midnight. For this bill to be rational, surely we have to understand that it is the need of protection that we are talking about and not some old-fashioned notion of magic hours that should be enforced.

There are problems with this that are just begging to be unleashed on our society. I ask the minister to think back just not too long ago about some of the problems we had, for instance, in Regent Park and Alexander Park between young black teenagers and the police: young black teenagers who are out on the streets at night in their communities, sometimes because they did not want to go home, because it was not a nice place to be; sometimes because of the enticements of being on the street; a lot of the time because there was nothing else to do and they were bored kids, becoming angry kids.

I worry. Who is this curfew aimed at? Is it aimed at the middle-class kids? Is it aimed at the kids from Rosedale who are going to drive to and from wherever they are going? Or is it aimed at the working-class kids in the city of Toronto, Scarborough, North York and Etobicoke: those people who are going to be out on the streets, who are still going to need public transit at one o'clock in the morning coming back from a date?

Why are we doing this? Why are we running against the principle of the legislation, which says that it is the question of whether the child is at risk, in need of protection, it is not anything else? I just have to emphasize that we took out all sorts of parts of the old child welfare legislation because they did not meet that standard. Yet we leave in this silly, anachronistic section and now, in fact, even want to tighten up the language somewhat to make it even more precise.

If some 20-year-old happens to be downtown with a 15-year-old and that 20-year-old has long hair and may not be at all friendly to some passing policeman, that kid can be accosted by the police, can be asked to identify himself and prove he has been given authority to have responsibility for that child; and can be harassed, frankly, under this legislation quite easily, when that child could have been his niece, his nephew, have not been in need of protection at all, because she or he was with the person that everybody presumed she or he was with.

The police phone home and the parents are not there. What happens then? Does this young man, who has long hair and an earring in his ear and who is unhappy in his presentation with the police, maybe gets a little obstreperous, get taken in? It seems to me he can be. The child can be taken to a place of safety. Do members know what a place of safety can be? Do members understand that for kids that can be the police station, the cop shop, as well as other places.

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Hon. Mr. Sweeney: No, it isn't.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Yes, it is a part of the definition of a safe haven; the minister knows it is. In places like Metropolitan Toronto, it is unlikely that would be the location they would go to, but in other parts of Ontario that would be exactly where they would be taken because there are no other facilities. The member knows that is the case.

Mr. Pouliot: What about natives?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) reminds me: what about native kids? We know now who is in our jails. We know now what happens to native youth. Why do we put in this kind of archaic, old Tory Ontario clause to deal with some real problems out there in terms of kids being used and abused on our streets? It is the fact that they are being used and abused that means they are in need of protection. It is not because we need curfew laws in Ontario.

To see the minister, whom I consider to be a fairly progressive individual, bringing forward this little collection of amendments with this kind of thrust to it rather than bringing in the kind of progressive amendments that are begging to be brought into this legislation really makes me worry about what has happened to Liberal reformism in Ontario.

Let us go to this question of apprehension of the young runaway. I defy anybody in this House to explain to me why the existing legislation does

not allow a policeman to pick up a young runaway whom he considers to be in need of protection, broadly interpreted, as the minister's own little blue handbook says, when there is no possibility of any civil action being taken against him for doing so. And why do we need to add in the new special phrases we are adding to this legislation, which must make us all worry a little bit?

I do not know of one example that has ever been raised to me by the police that that was not the most strict, narrow interpretation of what we were up to. And this blue book should have dispelled any kind of notion that that was a valid way of approaching it.

I do not think the minister has explained to this House—and we need and deserve an explanation—why he believes the existing law does not go far enough. I do not believe he believes it. I think he has just made these changes to get these lobby groups off his back. He thinks he has done them in a way that only the most ardently single-minded civil libertarian could be upset about, and that the rest of us in the realpolitik in the real world out there really could not be that concerned about it.

I do not need to go through all the arguments that have been brought forward by Justice for Children, whose history in terms of the rights of young people, I would suggest, has been exemplary.

There are sections here which really make me worry. I wonder why it is that we need such a blanket notion that a warrant need not identify the actual residence. I can understand that the police may very well want a fairly broad warrant for picking up a runaway on the street. They do not want to be too specific about identifying that location.

But let us understand that we are dealing here with what may be a sworn affidavit by a parent. If we take that at face value, it seems a fairly harmless kind of thing. But what we are not looking at is why do most kids run. Not from our care institutions—that is whole other matter which I may come to in a minute. But why do they run from home? Why do the majority of them go?

If you then have the warrant issued by the parent and taken at face value, the warrant meaning the possibility that the police could go anywhere, there are a number of scenarios that could take place which I think all members should be concerned about.

It is not unusual for a child from an abusive home to run, and let's remember that. Where

there is no proof, there will be no allegations. The child runs instead of going to the police, whether there is physical violence against the child or whether there is sexual abuse, incest, involving the child. The child runs from home and perhaps—it could happen in this benign a fashion—runs to the grandparents' house or runs to a friend's house, where he or she knows he or she can at least find refuge. The abusive parent calls the police, signs a warrant for that child's apprehension as a runaway and, as I read this legislation, could then direct the police to go possibly even to this friend's house or the grandparents' home and apprehend the child in that home and take him or her back to an abusive home.

Unless the child, during this apprehension, is willing to identify his or her parents as abusive, he or she could be going back to a very dangerous situation. If the child identifies his or her parents as abusive to the police, then the police, obviously, in terms of needing to protect that child, would take that child to the children's aid society, one would presume, or to an appropriate agency. But if the child were still unwilling to deal with this publicly, I ask just what role we are now putting the police in. This kind of idea that wide-open warrants are necessary is something I really do have some difficulty with.

I have spoken for a long time and I will get my chance in committee to speak again. I know there are other members who wish to speak. If I were just to sum up, it would be this. There are people in this House, and I include myself among them, who have put far too much energy into bringing us a progressive piece of child protection legislation in this province to sit back quietly at this stage and watch the government bring in only amendments which erode the civil libertarian aspects of that legislation. It is a profound disappointment to me that this minister and this government would take this kind of action as a response to the kind of intense lobbying I know they have been under.

I know our chances of getting this amended are slim at best, that when these particular communities mobilize themselves, when worried parents, overworked children's aid societies, the police who want more authority, the psychiatric community which wants to maintain control of its treatment programs, band together, it is a very small civil libertarian voice indeed which can rise against them and get the kind of changes we need.

Frankly, if this government and this minister had determined it was worth while to stand up

against those kind of pressures in the name of the civil liberties we sought for young people, they would never have introduced this legislation in the first place.

Mrs. Marland: In rising today to speak to the second reading of Bill 107, An Act to amend the Child and Family Services Act, I want to say at the outset that I do support the bill.

I listened very carefully to the immediately previous speaker, the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston), who is someone for whom, in my limited three-year experience in the House, I have developed a great deal of respect in terms of his compassion and caring when it comes to issues of human need.

1730

I suppose I have to admit to being somewhat surprised, if these are not all the improvements he would like to see to the act, that he would not be willing at least to get some of these amendments passed and through the process we have agreed upon, which is that this bill will in fact go to committee.

The most critical thing that happens with Bill 107, in my opinion, is that it goes to committee very quickly and gets in and out of those committee hearings with enough time to give the members of the public who want to express their input to these amendments; that it gets through and proclaimed so that this summer we can possibly protect more children who are on the streets than we can without these amendments.

I do not think it is difficult to understand the concerns of those of us who agree with the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Sweeney) that there simply are too many children on our streets today. I heard the minister estimate 10,000. That is a horrendous responsibility, I suggest, that falls on each and every shoulder, of all parties, in this Legislature.

If we have 10,000 children on the streets, to use the colloquialism which we all understand, we know very well that there will be a number of those children who can become self-sufficient. They are independent and able to make it—make it on the terms that street kids make it. I think any one of us who has ever worked with street kids knows that there are some who develop a very strong ability to make it.

But for each one of those who survives and eventually comes around to a normal way of living as he or she gets away from those years and those ages of being street kids, there are many more children who are totally destroyed for the rest of their lives because of the experiences they have had at a time when perhaps just that further

reach to bring them back into the fold at up to 15 years of age could have been their salvation.

We are not talking here about young adults, in a lot of cases. We are not talking about children who are old enough to make rational decisions for themselves. We are not talking about children who are old enough to leave school. We are not talking about children who are old enough indeed to decide whether they want to be married or whether they want to live at home. We are not talking even about 16-year-olds who fall into those categories. We are talking about children who are up to and including the age of 15.

There certainly would be some people today who say that 15-year-olds today are much older for their years, much more sophisticated, much more capable of making their own decisions than perhaps we were, because of the kind of education they get through the media, through life experiences, which we did not have. I suggest that those experiences and those forms of learning in fact do not make them any more capable of making the right decisions than the opportunities to make the right decisions that we had at the same age.

When we talk about the thrust behind these amendments, I know that to some people the use of the words "lobby groups" is perhaps questionable and perhaps offensive. I would hate to think that all our legislation, either original legislation or amendments to existing legislation, was just blindly being responsive to lobby groups.

I think the important responsibility we have as legislators is to listen to everyone. The day that we, as responsible, elected representatives of the people of Ontario in this House, in this assembly, stop listening to people who have something to tell us, then as far as I am concerned we forfeit our privilege of serving the public. With our privilege of serving the public goes the responsibility to listen. If we are not going to listen to the child protection workers in the best interest of those children, I would have to ask: to whom do we listen? To whom do we listen for the future of these children, if not those people who are professionals, who are working with them every day, who know every day what the problems are that those street kids face?

I am not denying the fact that common sense tells us a lot of these children, any number of them, are running from very bad situations in their homes. That is not the issue we are dealing with here. Even if it were, the fact is that the alternative to having a bad environment at home—and I am talking about the very serious and severe environments where those children

are abused in one form or another in their own homes—even if we were dealing solely with that, surely to goodness we have a responsibility even more so to those children to provide some remedy, some refuge, some solution for them. After all is said and done, they are under 15 years of age.

In fact, where we are talking about the curfew aspect we are talking about, yes, the rights of children, but I would respectfully suggest that we are also talking about the rights of parents. I think it is very interesting how quickly we are inclined to dump on parents. We certainly heard that a lot last week with the tragedy that happened in Toronto as a result of a drug involvement of a 14-year-old boy. We heard that parents must be responsible for their children, we heard that parents must not let their children go to rock concerts because of the risk of drugs and alcohol abuse.

We heard it is the parents who must be responsible for these children and keep them safe. In fact, one of these amendments is simply giving the parents the opportunity to take on the responsibility the world is saying they have. With the responsibility of parents go also somewhat our rights as parents. I hope, if children are running for a number of reasons other than a violent, abusive situation in their home, that at least the parents would have the chance to have those children returned to them.

I do not know if any member of this Legislature has had a child run from home. I suppose, being the mother of three children, that I am very fortunate because I have not had that experience. But I have a friend who is currently in that experience, and I want to say that there cannot be anything more frightening for a parent than having a child run from home and the parent not being able to reach him or her. If this bill gives the police and child protection workers authority to apprehend runaway children on their parents' request, surely to goodness, if we believe in the responsibility for children up to age 15, it is a provision that we want to support.

1740

We are not talking here about minor situations in terms of the gravity of what is involved. In fact, the bill does not even say "where children are at risk." It says that the act presently does not give child protection workers enough powers to protect children who are at substantial risk. The description of risk is "substantial." As the minister said earlier this afternoon, the risk is real. I suggest that professional child protection

workers and professional police officers know very well what "substantial" and "real" are.

I guess we are very fortunate in the region of Peel because we have a police force that is headed up by one of the best police chiefs in the country, Chief Bill Teggart. I know the level of professionalism that is continually demonstrated by the members of the Peel Regional Police Force. I have confidence in those police officers. Those men and women serve as caring professionals. I do not have a concern that those individuals will pick up children who are out delivering their newspapers between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.

I do not have a concern for the level of professionalism of the Ministry of Community and Social Services staff at the regional offices in Peel, nor indeed throughout the province, because I have confidence in those staff members. I feel that they are genuinely trying to work with the existing legislation, as the minister has said, but it is not working. Therefore, these amendments will only help them to do their job, which is in the best interest of these children, and that is the protection of the children themselves.

Obviously they are not going to force children back into homes where abuse exists. And obviously the fact that the curfew provisions are being tightened is because the act as it stands now says that if a 12-year old is accompanied by an adult whom she claims is responsible for her, the police cannot apprehend her. Obviously, that is not a satisfactory situation. That individual may be under tremendous fear and pressure from that adult who is accompanying her or him.

It seems to me that although nothing is perfect in legislation—and the minister himself said that—in fact I would say, perhaps somewhat humorously, since the member for Scarborough West said that this sounded like an old Tory policy, even old Tory policies which were not perfect withstood amendments as improvements could be made. Certainly this piece of legislation can stand these amendments and maybe more at some other time in the future. Obviously, at this time I feel very strongly that we must get on to it, because we have a responsibility to these children.

While nothing is perfect, and certainly those of us on this side of the Legislature would agree that nothing has been perfect in the last three years in the government of Ontario, I have to say that I think these amendments work towards, not the perfection of this legislation but the improvement of the existing legislation. Therefore, I support the bill in the best interests of these children.

Mr. Runciman: I have just a few brief comments. I noted a reference in the bill which I think gives me some opening to make some comments that perhaps are not directly related to the bill, but the minister is uncertain, so I think that would also provide me with a bit of an opportunity, and that is the fact that admission criteria for secure or locked detention facilities are broadened to include young people, etc.

The point that grabbed my attention was the broadening of the admission criteria for secure detention. I wanted to get on the record again the fact that it seems to be somewhat ironic that we are talking about broadening the admission criteria, and at the same time the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Ramsay), who is responsible for another category, I guess, of young offenders in terms of provision of secure facilities, has for purely crass, partisan reasons decided not to proceed with a secure young offenders facility in eastern Ontario.

The facility was announced in 1985, and as late as August 1987 the former Solicitor General, the member for Kingston and The Islands (Mr. Keyes), indicated that the facility would proceed, but with a reduced number of beds, from 100 beds to 80 beds. That was in August 1987. Shortly following the removal of the member for Kingston and The Islands from that office and the current minister's elevation to cabinet, we had a decision made for purely political reasons to cancel that secure facility.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Order. I remind all members that if they are having private conversations, would they please do so in the hall or elsewhere in the lobby? I find it very difficult to hear the member for Leeds-Grenville.

I am also finding it difficult to determine whether or not the honourable member is talking about people who are under the age of 16 or persons who are over the age of 16, so he could proceed and try to keep within the principle of the bill itself.

Mr. Runciman: Madam Speaker, if you want to clarify that for me, as I told you, I approached the minister before rising and he was not quite certain himself, so I think you have to allow me some liberty.

I want to point out that we contacted the chiefs of police in Ottawa, Cornwall, Kingston, Brockville, Gananoque—in that area—in terms of their degree of satisfaction with what was happening with regard to the availability of secure facilities in eastern Ontario and they were all completely dissatisfied. It is creating innumerable problems

for police departments throughout eastern Ontario.

This minister had the audacity to stand up and indicate that he was going to resolve the problem by the conversion of a facility in Cobourg, I believe, which he called part of eastern Ontario. I want to tell him and tell the House that those of us in eastern Ontario who have an understanding of where eastern Ontario begins and ends do not consider Cobourg to be part of eastern Ontario. That is a problem throughout the government, and I do not lay it at the doorstep of the current government, a problem that has been there for some number of years in terms of the definition of eastern Ontario.

Every ministry has a different definition of eastern Ontario, and as a result, eastern Ontarians generally suffer. The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter), for example, thinks eastern Ontario begins at the eastern boundaries of Metropolitan Toronto, so it has been and continues to be a major problem and a concern for us in eastern Ontario.

In any event, I wanted to put those concerns on the record. I wish the Minister of Community and Social Services was responsible for this area as well, because I think he is the kind of individual who would put political reasons behind him. He would look out for the concerns of the young offenders and not be subjected to the kind of crass political persuasion or give in to the kind of persuasion that the current Minister of Correctional Services gave in to, obviously.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any comments or questions?

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I want to comment on the member's intervention because I know he had meant to indicate, now that some of the pages have been brought out of their secure areas and allowed into the House, that a survey of the pages was done earlier on and they thought it was preposterous to have this midnight curfew. I thought I would pass that on to the minister.

1750

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other comments or questions? Any further debate? The minister has some final comments.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: It would appear that all those who wish to participate now have done so. Of course, everyone appreciates that it will go to committee and anyone who wants to make further interventions will have an opportunity to do so there.

There were quite a number of important and valid points made by the various critics. I do not

have time to go through them all. I would like to draw a couple of points to my honourable colleagues' attention for clarification.

The member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) referred to the fact that this legislation could affect custody battles between two parents for their own child. That is what I thought he said. I just want to assure him that this legislation does not affect that. The member also indicated that there were a number of things in the child and family services legislation that could have been brought in for amendment at this time, so I draw that to the attention to the member for Hamilton West.

The member for Scarborough West indicated that he had expected other kinds of amendments. I draw to his attention, as I have drawn to the attention of the critics when they were advised of this legislation, that there is another bill which will be introduced, hopefully in the fall, that does include a number of amendments. Some of them are along the lines that the member for Scarborough West indicated, particularly with respect to native people. I hope that at that time we will further respond to some of his concerns for other amendments.

That was not the intent of this legislation. Rather than wait until the fall and do it all at once, we had been asked to try to get this particular small section through as quickly as possible.

I also point out to the member for Scarborough West, and I think he may be aware of this, that there is an ongoing review taking place right now with respect to the whole area of child protection. It is being chaired by Colin Maloney, the executive director of the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Metropolitan Toronto. Once again, many of the very valid issues he raised will be covered by that particular kind of review.

I had indicated to my officials that we needed to take a look at the broader picture of earlier intervention, of prevention, of trying to spot these kids before they got into trouble, that we had to deal with them in that particular way.

I would point out again to the member for Scarborough West that I have a little bit of difficulty with his reference to lobby groups. I can assure him that I get lobbied by many, many groups and that I always listen to what they have to say. I do not always accept their advice. I do not think that would surprise him, but I do believe it is important that we be open to listening to them.

I was a little bit surprised at that comment from the member for Scarborough West, because he is perhaps one of the most skilful members in this

House at using lobby groups to make his own points. That is valid.

I compliment him on that ability, but I would also draw to his attention that we cannot be seen to be selective as to whom we are going to listen to and whom we are not.

I want an opportunity, when we get at this again in committee, to refer to a number, as I say, of the other valid points the member has raised, but time is passing right now and I will use that opportunity.

1757

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Sweeney's motion for second reading of Bill 107, which was agreed to on the following vote.

Ayes

Adams, Ballinger, Beer, Black, Bradley, Brown, Callahan, Campbell, Caplan, Carrothers, Chiarelli, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Elston, Epp, Eves, Faubert, Fawcett, Ferraro, Fleet, Furlong, Grandmaitre, Haggerty, Harris, Hart, Jackson, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, Kerrio, Kwinter;

LeBourdais, Lipsett, Lupusella, Mahoney, Marland, McClelland, McLean, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Neumann, Nicholas, Nixon, J. B., Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Offer, O'Neil, O'Neill, Owen, Patten, Pelissero, Phillips, Pollock, Polsinelli, Poole, Ramsay, Reycraft, Riddell, Roberts, Runciman, Ruprecht, Scott, Smith, D. W., Smith, E. J., Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Sweeney, Tatham, Velshi, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Allen, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, D. S., Grier, Hampton, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, Philip, Pouliot, Reville, Swart, Wildman.

Ayes 80; nays 15.

Bill ordered for standing committee on social development.

Hon. Mr. Conway: The Lieutenant Governor awaits to give royal assent to certain bills.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his seat upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Mr. Alexander: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed certain bills to

which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Clerk Assistant: The following are the titles of the bills to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 108, An Act to amend the Rental Housing Protection Act, 1986;

Bill 130, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Waterloo Act and the Education Act;

Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Big Cedar Association;

Bill Pr5, An Act respecting The Chartered Institute of Marketing Management of Ontario;

Bill Pr10, An Act respecting the Oshawa Public Utilities Commission;

Bill Pr11, An Act to revive L F P Management Limited;

Bill Pr19, An Act respecting the City of Sudbury;

Bill Pr22, An Act respecting the City of Mississauga;

Bill Pr24, An Act respecting the Hamilton Civic Hospitals;

Bill Pr25, An Act respecting Kingsway General Insurance Company;

Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the Ontario Municipal Management Institute;

Bill Pr28, An Act to revive Mid-Continent Bond Corporation, Limited;

Bill Pr29, An Act respecting The United Church of Canada and The Canada Conference The Evangelical United Brethren Church;

Bill Pr30, An Act respecting The General Hospital of Port Arthur;

Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the City of North York;

Bill Pr34, An Act to revive Machin Mines Limited;

Bill Pr37, An Act respecting the University of Western Ontario;

Bill Pr38, An Act to revive Prow Yellowknife Gold Mines Ltd.;

Bill Pr48, An Act respecting the Town of Oakville;

Bill Pr56, An Act respecting the City of Toronto;

Bill Pr62, An Act respecting The Windsor Utilities Commission;

Bill Pr67, An Act respecting the City of Hamilton.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name,
His Honour the Lieutenant Governor doth assent
to these bills.

His Honour the Lieutenant Governor was
pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

SUMMER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

103. Mrs. Cunningham: Would the Minister of Skills Development provide a complete financial report on the Summer Experience '88 program, including a breakdown of all administrative and advertising costs including how many

Experience '88 guidebooks were printed, at what cost, whom they were distributed to and when? [Tabled April 14, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Curling: Please refer to the attached table.

Summer Experience Program

Item	Details
1987-88 fiscal year	
Summer Experience program unit	
Administrative costs	
Salaries/wages/benefits	\$ 75,302
Advertising	0
Other direct operating costs (including printing)	311,759
Payments to participating ministries	12,958,118
Total	\$13,345,179

Experience '88 guidebooks: number printed, 160,000; printing cost, \$175,385; distribution date, last week of March 1988; distribution list—principals of Ontario secondary schools/placement officers of post-secondary institutions, youth employment counselling centres in Ontario, Futures offices, francophone organizations in Ontario, Ontario native associations, community information centres in Ontario, Canada employment centres in Ontario, MPP constituency offices, Ontario government bookstore, Access Ontario.

155; Queen Street Mental Health Centre, 117; Whitby Psychiatric Hospital, 160.

RENT REGULATION

119. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Housing state whether or not her ministry has amended the forms used to inform tenants of orders for rent increases made under section 73 or section 74 of the Residential Rent Regulation Act so that those forms now reflect the increases awarded not only in dollars but also as percentages of the total rent, and if the forms have been amended in this fashion, would the minister provide copies thereof? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

BROCKVILLE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

116. Mr. Runciman: Will the Minister of Health indicate the number of grievances that have been filed at the Brockville Psychiatric Hospital since 1984 and how this compares with other psychiatric facilities in the province? [Tabled April 20, 1988]

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: There have been 113 grievances filed at Brockville Psychiatric Hospital since 1984 compared to: Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, 27; Kingston Psychiatric Hospital, 105; London Psychiatric Hospital, 83; North Bay Psychiatric Hospital, 87; Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre, 280; Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, 54; St. Thomas Psychiatric Hospital,

Hon. Ms. Hošek: Landlords and tenants affected by an application made under sections 73 and 74 of the Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1986, receive an order and summary of reasons. The justified rent increase for the whole complex is set out on the prescribed summary of reasons as an amount in dollars. As well, additional information is now being provided to express the justified rent increase as an overall percentage. Individual rent increases may vary from this percentage due to equalization of rents for similar rental units and the apportionment of the justified rent increase among the rental units. A sample of the kind of information generally provided on the summary of reasons is attached.

Application No. _____

DRAFT

Schedule B: Summary of Reasons

Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1986

For the order of the minister dated _____ respecting an application for rent review under section 74 of the Residential Rent Regulation Act, 1986, for

(Address)

A. Preliminary issues		
B. Components of the total justified rent increase allowed	Amount	Schedules attached for further information (Schedules marked with an asterisk (*) are not relevant to this application.)
Operating cost allowance		B.1
Extraordinary operating costs		B.2
Capital expenditure allowance		B.3
Increased financing costs		B.4
Financing costs no longer borne		B.5
Financial loss allowance		B.6
Relief from hardship allowance		B.7
Economic loss allowance		B.8
Allowance for variance from previously projected capital expenditures		B.9
Allowance for variance from previously projected financing costs		B.10
Changes in services and facilities or standard of maintenance and repair		B.11
Other prescribed matters		B.12
Total justified annual rent increase for residential complex	\$_____	

The total justified annual rent increase represents an increase of _____% for the whole complex. Individual rent increases may vary from this percentage due to apportionment or equalization.

Signature

Date

Name

Office

Title

Address/Telephone No.

LOTTERY GRANTS

123. Mr. McLean: Would the Minister of Tourism and Recreation provide a list of the projects approved from lottery proceeds in 1987-88 and itemize the amount of money approved for each? [Tabled April 28, 1988]
See sessional paper 251.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

135. Mr. Jackson: Would the Minister of Education provide the definition of a “qualified student” for post-secondary education in Ontario as articulated by Premier David Peterson on June 10, 1987? [Tabled May 5, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Ward: In briefing note 21, issued in February 1986, the Council of Ontario Universities very clearly described the entrance requirements that would need to be met in order that a student be qualified for admission to a university in Ontario.

In particular, the briefing note states in sections 4, 5 and 8 "either the OSSHGD (Ontario secondary school honour graduation diploma) or the OSSD (Ontario secondary school diploma) can be presented with any combination of grade 13 courses and OACs.... An overall average of 60 per cent on six OACs and/or grade 13 courses is the minimum required for consideration. Special requirements for particular programs will be determined by individual universities as at present. Averages considerably above 60 per cent may be required for admission to programs where the rigour of the program requires a higher standard or the demand for places exceeds the supply available.... Each university will continue to specify, as at present, special subject requirements for admission to particular programs."

GOVERNMENT STUDIES

136. Mr. McLean: Would each minister provide a list of the number, type and status of all studies, reports, commissions and police investigations commissioned by his ministry since June 1985? [Tabled May 5, 1988]

Hon. Mr. Elston: The commissioning of studies and reports is part of the normal day-to-day operation of government. Each project and subproject often entails the commissioning of a study into its feasibility, implications and method of approach. These studies can be technical or general in nature, involving ministry staff, sometimes external consultants or a combination of both. In addition, there are hundreds of internal and external studies undertaken and reports generated on administrative and procedural matters on a daily basis across the government. Consequently, to fully answer this question, covering all ministries' operations over the past three years, would take an inordinate amount of time, incur considerable expense and seriously overload ministries' staff resources.

INTERIM ANSWERS

101. Mr. D. S. Cooke: Hon. Mr. Elston—The government does not maintain a list of all provincial governments jobs by their community location. The amount of staff time and cost required to compile an answer to this question, community by community, ministry by ministry,

cannot be justified. The answer to this question would also fluctuate widely depending on seasonal work since many thousands of additional employees are likely to work in smaller communities on various projects on a seasonal basis. The Ontario government, or one of its agencies, employs persons in almost every community in Ontario and some employers, such as the Ontario Provincial Police and Ontario Hydro, serve virtually every community in Ontario, outside the large metropolitan areas.

Preliminary research indicates that the government does maintain a geographic listing for Ontario public service employees. However, due to the volume of material to be searched, the collection of this data will take longer than the normal 14 days and therefore we propose to provide the information approximately June 23, 1988.

124. Mr. McLean: Hon. Mr. Elston—Although this question was directed to the Minister of Government Services, it is more appropriate for me, as Chairman of Management Board, to respond. In order to collect and verify the information requested, we will require more than the normal 14 days and propose to provide a response approximately June 16, 1988.

127. Mr. Cousens: Hon. Mr. Sweeney—With reference to this question, a full response cannot be prepared within the time period outlined in standing order 88(d). A full response will be available on or about May 30, 1988.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Sessional paper P-7, re Sunday shopping.

Hon. Mrs. Smith: The government has concluded that municipalities should have the option to decide retail hours on Sundays and other holidays and has introduced legislation to accomplish this.

The legislation recognizes that attitudes and conditions vary widely across the province and that municipal governments are in the best position to determine, locally, appropriate approaches to this issue. It should be emphasized that this does not imply wide-open Sunday shopping. Those municipalities that wish to open may do so. Those that wish to restrict Sunday shopping may require retailers to remain closed on Sunday.

The Minister of Labour has introduced legislation which will establish the right of all retail workers to refuse Sunday work, which is in their view unreasonable. That legislation will protect

workers against reprisals and provide for mediation to resolve situations in which the parties cannot agree.

The current situation clearly needs to be addressed. Inconsistencies in the present legislation have led to unfairness and uneven enforcement of the law. The proposed amendments will ensure that the law is fair and enforceable.

SCHOOL ACCOMMODATION

Sessional paper P-16, re creation of one consolidated school system in Peterborough.

Hon. Mr. Ward: The legislation that allows separate school boards to extend their program requires the formation of a joint committee comprising trustees from the public and the separate school boards. This joint committee is responsible for exploring opportunities for transferring facilities, leasing facilities or sharing services, facilities, resources and staff and may make recommendations in respect of the implementation of programs for such programs.

The joint committee of the Peterborough County Board of Education and the Peterborough-Victoria-Northumberland and Newcastle Roman Catholic Separate School Board has given careful study to the issue of secondary school accommodation in the city of Peterborough. As a result of this study, the Peterborough county board on March 24, 1988, voted to lease the Peterborough Collegiate Institute and Vocational School to the separate school board for five years, beginning on September 1, 1989. The five-year lease was made on the condition that the separate school board agrees in writing to welcome all public school students who wish to remain at the collegiate beyond September 1, 1989, and that these students will be given every opportunity to participate fully in the life of the school.

The separate school board agreed on the condition that after five years the Ministry of Education would provide funds for the construction of a new Catholic high school in Peterborough. The ministry has indicated that it is not possible to make commitments five years hence. Capital allocations are usually made on a one-, two- or three-year basis. After some discussion, the separate school board agreed to the lease.

The public school board has officially notified the city's public high school teachers that Peterborough Collegiate will close as a public secondary school in June 1989. At the end of the five-year lease, there is a possibility that it will reopen as a public high school. In the past it had been slated for closure by the public board.

NURSING SERVICES

Sessional paper P-17, re College of Nurses.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The College of Nurses of Ontario may, within the current health disciplines legislation, develop proposals to revise standards of nursing practice. The CNO is now proposing revised standards which would establish graduation from a degree-granting institution as the minimum entry level for registered nurses. However, the Ministry of Health must approve all proposed changes which would alter regulations. Entry-to-practice educational requirements (RNAs) are included in regulations. As minister, I stated that I will not consent to a change in the regulations which would establish a degree as a requirement for entry to nursing practice.

The council members of the CNO are elected by CNO registrants in constituencies across the province. Registrants who believe that their elected members are not representing their views or feel that the CNO feedback strategies are inadequate should address their concerns to their representatives.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

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- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
 Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
 Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
 Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
 Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
 Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
 Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
 Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)</p> | <p>Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
 Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
 Grandmaitre, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
 Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
 Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
 Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
 Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
 McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)</p> |
|--|--|

- Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reycraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)
 Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Ruprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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No. 68

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 34th Parliament

Wednesday, May 25, 1988

Speaker: Honourable Hugh A. Edighoffer

Clerk of the House: Claude L. DesRosiers

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, May 25, 1988

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would like to inform all members that we have two guests in the Speaker's gallery today whom I would like to introduce to you.

I would like you to recognize, from the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Victoria, Australia, the member for the electoral district of Frankston South, the Honourable George Graeme Weideman. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Weideman.

Also, we are privileged to have a member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, the Speaker-designate, Denis Rocan. Please join me in welcoming Mr. Rocan.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. Laughren: Ontario's workers' compensation system is in a mess; injured workers are unhappy with it. The Workers' Compensation Board is bureaucratic, it is adversarial in nature and it has a terrible rehabilitation system. Supplements have been reduced for workers who are on permanent pensions.

Not only are workers unhappy; employers are unhappy with their compensation system too as the assessment rates seem to climb for ever. We have a \$6-billion unfunded liability of the compensation board as well. MPPs, unions, organizations of injured workers, community legal clinics, case workers and indeed the minister's own office of the worker adviser are backed up all across Ontario with injured workers' problems.

As though all this was not bad enough, the present Minister of Labour (Mr. Sorbara) has abandoned injured workers. The Minister of Labour has historically been the safety valve between workers and the rather capricious policies of the Workers' Compensation Board. Whenever the oppression of injured workers became unbearable, the Minister of Labour has been able to intervene. But this minister has simply not been able to do that; the Workers'

Compensation Board is running the Ministry of Labour. If I could draw a nice analogy, it really is a case of the tail wagging the dog.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mrs. Cunningham: Lack of capital funding for school boards is a crisis. The concerns of parents and trustees are getting louder. The member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay (Mr. Black) advised his board this past week to consider debentures in construction of core schools—short-term solutions, no long-term planning and a change of tune, I might add, for the member for Muskoka-Georgian Bay, certainly not the advice he gave his board when he was employed by it. Ontario boards have been debenturing, constructing core schools and adding portables at a phenomenal rate since this government took office.

Toeing the Liberal Party line is not good enough in Muskoka, nor is it good enough in London. The separate school board in London has been given no options for its immediate crisis accommodation needs. It has been forced to build a village of portables to the tune of \$440,000. Obviously, accommodation for students in public and separate school systems across this province is not important to this government.

The separate school board in London is not receiving full financing. The promise of full financing to separate schools is just another broken promise. Public school boards across Ontario are receiving even less. We would urge the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) to reassess the priorities within his ministry immediately.

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA

Mr. McGuigan: I am sure the House will join me today in congratulating a remarkable organization on achieving a milestone in its dedication to conservation. Indeed, all Ontarians are indebted to Ducks Unlimited Canada, which marks its 50th anniversary this year.

It is worth recalling that in 1938, when Ducks Unlimited was established, the duck population was declining at an alarming rate on this continent. It was the drought years, and all across the Prairies ponds and waterholes were disap-

pearing, leaving duck populations with no place to go. Funded by its members and by public contributions, Ducks Unlimited took major initiatives in wetland regeneration and other projects to improve the habitat for waterfowl.

This anniversary year, Ducks Unlimited has budgeted almost \$44 million for wetland habitat projects across Canada. The Ministry of Natural Resources should be extremely proud of its rewarding association and partnership with Ducks Unlimited. Since 1975, the organization has invested some \$18 million on projects to regenerate provincial habitat. These include improvements to more than 270 wetlands, totalling 33,000 acres.

In all, people have contributed almost \$30 million to further Ducks Unlimited's activities, and the list of donors is nearing 100,000. I take pride in being a member of the organization. As Ducks Unlimited marks its golden anniversary, it is most appropriate that this year the Ministry of Natural Resources is planning to provide more protection for wetlands in the provincial law.

OFFICE OF THE WORKER ADVISER

Mr. Farnan: I rise to draw attention to the staffing situation at the office of the worker adviser in Kitchener. I have a couple of pieces of correspondence, the first from Sandy Provost of the United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America Local 1090, who writes:

"I feel we need at least two more workers as it takes from six months to a year to get an appointment to see a counsellor. Although the present staff are good and conscientious workers they are overworked and can't spend the time needed to give service to all who need help due to the complicated procedures and language of the Workers' Compensation Act. The prolonged waiting period also causes worry and stress to injured workers who must wait for help with their claims."

The other piece of correspondence comes from Terry Rogers. He says he is "writing to complain about the small number of staff in the office of the worker adviser" on King Street in Kitchener. "The advisers who are employed there are helpful and hard-working but cannot possibly handle the workload effectively."

Both of these individuals request that the government address this situation and give much-needed relief to the workers' compensation staff by employing additional staff to help with the overload.

1340

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Harris: The Liberals have banned trapping in our parks. I want to educate those who do not understand the anticonservation and antiwildlife consequences.

Trapping is key to professional wildlife management. Ontario's fur-bearer management program is the best in the world. There are more fur-bearers in Ontario today than when settlers first arrived but, because of man, species such as beaver would be endangered today if not for the conservation work of trappers. Control of rabies and flooding are recognized rural and urban benefits.

With 15 million acres in Ontario now devoid of wildlife management, the Peterson Liberals have dealt all wildlife a cruel blow, opening the door to overpopulation, which leads to disease, starvation, stress, predation and population collapse. Wildlife knows no park boundaries.

This decision may violate a legal agreement with the 16,000-member Ontario Trappers Association. It bans a resource activity in our summer parks that does not even begin until November. Yet the minister did not even have the courtesy to consult the Ontario Trappers Association or the public.

I am also told the minister's own wildlife experts were shocked by his announcement, made for political reasons with no understanding of the wildlife damage.

The politics are clear. So are the consequences. What is not clear is how we explain what happened on the day our children say: "We learned about wildlife in school today. What did it look like and why did you let them die?"

PROVINCIAL PARKS

Mr. Morin: I am sure that all members who have known the haunting stillness of a northern lake or heard the piercing cry of a solitary loon share my interest in protecting our wilderness.

Having lived in the north and having loved its natural beauty all my life, I am saddened by the damage that we, in our ignorance, have caused. We are paying dearly for our mistaken sense of endless space and infinite resources. We have destroyed lakes and species and devastated forests. We are finally learning from our errors. We are halting the destruction and repairing the damage.

The new provincial parks and new protection policy introduced by the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) are a step in the right direction. I particularly commend the honourable

minister on his decision regarding land use in the Temagami area.

The policy speaks clearly for the protection of the environment by forbidding such things as mining, trapping and hydroelectric development in wilderness areas. At the same time, it recognizes that people also have a place in the natural world. The local economy in Temagami is dependent on lumbering, and people are entitled to make a living. It is possible to protect the environment and at the same time to allow a limited amount of strictly regulated logging. The key is to learn to return what we are given, to find, once again, a balance with the natural world.

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. R. F. Johnston: Next week focuses on the problems of the disabled. I wonder where the government's commitment to employment equity has gone.

On Friday, the case of Steve Woodbridge, somebody who has been good enough to work in the government's ministries for two years on a temporary contract, who placed third in two interviews and yet was not hired, was brought to light.

It is time now for this government not just to redress the problems of Steve Woodbridge but to bring in mandatory affirmative action programs and at least finally to implement the planning-for-diversity proposals that were initiated and brought forward last July.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Mr. Scott: Later today I will be tabling my ministry's analysis of the impact of the proposed Canada-United States trade agreement.

The key finding is that the agreement will reduce dramatically and systematically the ability of all provincial governments to shape and implement social and economic policy. Of course, the impact on federal powers, which others will study, is equally dramatic.

In addition, the trade agreement makes room for a third party at the federal-provincial bargaining table. That third party is the government of the United States of America, which will have the right to insist that our national government intervene in a whole range of matters which fall under provincial jurisdiction.

This will mean that provincial attempts to respond to the social and economic needs of our citizens will be severely constrained in the future. New provincial programs in a wide

variety of areas will be monitored by politicians and interest groups in the United States. If they object, they will have the legal right to call upon our federal government to intervene and attempt to override provincial programs.

Some members will know that US implementing legislation will apparently require the US government to monitor Canadian subsidies programs, submitting annual reports to Congress and reserving the right to bring trade complaints against Canadian subsidized industries.

This new legal relationship with the United States will fundamentally alter the established dynamic and workings of Canadian federalism.

In the past, Canadian federalism has been sustained on a spirit of compromise, civility and mutual respect. Both federal and provincial governments in this country have refrained from aggressive intrusions into the jurisdiction of other governments and avoided needless constitutional confrontation.

This Canadian political tradition is threatened by the proposed trade agreement. Under the agreement, the United States will be able to insist that the government of Canada attempt to control provincial programs and policies in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction. This follows from the undertaking of the federal government in article 103 to "ensure that all necessary measures are taken" to ensure the observance of the agreement by the provinces.

The legal analysis details the range of impacts on provincial programs and policies. Some of the most severe effects on provincial programs include the following:

The energy provisions will restrict the scope of two-price energy policy as a provincial tool for economic development.

Natural resources are subject to compulsory sharing with the United States in times of shortage, and licensing for commercial use of resources must be accorded equally to Americans and Canadians.

US management service providers in fields such as public and psychiatric hospitals, ambulance services, health clinics, professional medical offices and blood banks have been given the right to establish business in Canada and to acquire Canadian service businesses, while the provincial power to differentiate between Canadian and American service providers has been limited.

Buy-Canadian investment rules have been prohibited, and subsidies and taxes may not in general in the future deny equal treatment to US businesses.

Wine listing and pricing policies will have to provide equal treatment to United States wines without the favourable treatment given to non-conforming practices now existing in Quebec and British Columbia.

For Ontario, this agreement is not just about the specific matter of implementing a new regulatory regime for wine and spirits. Rather, the agreement will mean a broad impairment of many Ontario policy responsibilities. The range and extent of the impact on provinces and on the dynamics of Canadian federalism is so significant as to amount to a unilateral constitutional change.

It is evident that there are very serious questions of constitutional competence raised by this agreement. My ministry will be examining the federal implementing legislation in the days and weeks ahead on a sector-by-sector basis in the context of the constitutional concerns that are set out in the study. Our analysis will consider a range of options in response to the very serious implications for Ontario identified by the study.

I should emphasize that the constitutional concerns which we have identified do not relate simply to the implementing legislation currently before the House of Commons. One of the key findings of the legal impact study is that the trade agreement amounts to a substantial impairment of our ability to govern. This impairment will become more clearly apparent over the medium-to-long term, as the province is prevented from exercising political choices and options which might otherwise have been available. The range of options open to Ontario as well as to the other provinces must be understood and assessed in this broader context.

Constitutional change in this country should not be achieved as an afterthought. It is important for all Canadians to understand and openly debate changes in the way we are governed.

One of the key effects of the free trade agreement is to alter constitutional relationships in this country. I hope that the publication of this report will help stimulate a much-needed debate both among members of this House and among all Canadians. I also expect that the issue of just who does what in the economy should be an early candidate for serious constitutional review. This review should examine the roles and responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments over the economy and consider whether we need a constitutional guarantee of our economic union.

1350

RESPONSES

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: It is truly a remarkable day when, after the federal government has released its legislation setting out precisely what it is going to be doing, the very best the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) can do is basically to reproduce the speech he gave on December 15, 1987. I think it is fair to say the Attorney General has been sitting on this analysis for several months. There is no excuse for the delay. What it has told us is precisely nothing.

I would like to quote, if I may, from page 98 of this devastating analysis, in which the province tells us precisely where it stands. This is the day after the legislation has been brought out by Mr. Crosbie. The gauntlet has been thrown down. Sections of the act state quite specifically that the federal government will intervene in areas of provincial jurisdiction whether the provinces like it or not. What is the response to this systematic attack on the ability of this province and other provinces to manage their affairs?

Listen to the attack that is being led by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the Attorney General, with their 94 Horsemen of the Apocalypse behind them: "Challenges to any aspect of the agreement need not come from a provincial government but may evolve out of private disputes." Those are fighting words indeed. John Crosbie is quaking in his mukluks when he hears this kind of approach from the Attorney General.

"Both private parties and provincial governments will be closely analysing the means chosen by the federal government"—there is nothing a federal government fears more than an analysis from the Attorney General of this province—"not just in the first instance but over the course of the next years, to ensure that the agreement is brought into force in Canada. Some of the reasons for careful scrutiny"—oh boy, scrutiny—"of these means have been set out in this discussion." Scrutiny and analysis. That is the way to defeat the feds when it comes to free trade. That is really going to do the trick.

This government has had an opportunity. First, the Premier said, "Give me a mandate so I can fight the feds on free trade," and Lord only knows he got his mandate. Then we asked him questions about what he was going to do, and he said: "I can't tell you what I'm going to do. I have to wait for the agreement." Then the agreement came out.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I remember that.

Mr. B. Rae: You remember that.

Then he said: "Don't push me on the agreement. I have to wait for the legislation." Then the legislation came out, and we waited today for the Attorney General and he did not even pull a rabbit out of his head. He did not even pull a hamster out of his hat. He did not pull a rabbit out of his hat. He pulled "careful scrutiny." He pulled "closely analysing." He pulled the possibility that this may go to court. "It might, but it won't necessarily come from us. It might just come from a private dispute."

If the Attorney General and the Premier were really concerned about free trade, if they were really concerned about the fact that this represents a constitutional attack on the powers of the provincial government, do members not think the Attorney General would have been in his place today and said, "We're going to take the feds to court because we don't think the feds have the right to do this"?

If they were to believe the Premier, that he was truly opposed to this agreement because it affected the rights of all provincial governments, do members not think he would be in his place today making the announcement himself that he would be speaking up on behalf of the provinces? Do members not think that is what he would do? Of course it is. This is a joke.

The Attorney General has turned what should be a moment of history in this province, in terms of our rights and our authority to speak up for areas of our jurisdiction, into a time of provincial retreat, into a time of provincial "close scrutiny," into a time of provincial "careful analysis," but not into a time of provincial action.

Yesterday we saw that we have people who are going to be waiting five years for a bus and five years for a subway. Now we are going to be waiting five, 10 or 15 years for our rendezvous with destiny, because what the Premier has said and what the Attorney General has said is that they are not prepared to act. They are not prepared to do. They are simply prepared to talk, to discuss, to scrutinize and to analyse.

We do not need a government to do that. If the Attorney General wants to do that, he should go back to private practice and do it. If he wants to act and the Premier wants to act, let them act now on behalf of Ontario and indeed on behalf of Canada.

Mr. Sterling: While I do not agree with the Leader of the Opposition on every matter on which he spoke, I do agree that this statement and legal opinion are a joke.

I said to the Attorney General some time ago that he would not confront the federal government with regard to a constitutional battle, because he knows he has already lost the fight before he goes to court. Therefore, what he has done, and what his Premier has done during the last election, is to pretend in front of the people of Ontario that he had a right, he had a constitutional challenge and there was a way to stop the free trade agreement if he wanted to do that.

Now we find out that the Attorney General is in full flight of retreat, along with his Premier, as he has evidenced in this document and his statement today.

He says, and I find this as much of a joke, "Canadian federalism has been sustained on a spirit of compromise, civility and mutual respect," and governments should avoid "needless constitutional confrontation."

Now we know what the Attorney General is doing. He knows he cannot win on this matter. He knows if he goes into court, he has much more to lose than to gain, because if he loses there will not be any further negotiations when trade matters are talked about in the future.

If one looks at this statement and this opinion in the context of our General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations, the very same arguments could be made with regard to those negotiations. Under the GATT rules, the same kind of a tax, the same kind of monitoring and every other matter that is contained in this document, which is trying to maintain the harum-scarum attitude of the Liberal government during the last election, is carried on.

But the same thing is true of the GATT as is true of this bilateral agreement, save and except that under this bilateral agreement we do have access to a dispute resolution mechanism where we can bring to the table our concerns, as well as they can bring forward their concerns. I see that as an advantage. I do not see that as a disadvantage.

I guess this is maybe the next-to-the-last step of retreat. I expect the Premier in the very near future, perhaps in the next week or the next two weeks or maybe in the next two months, will be saying finally that there will not be a confrontation because of some matter in terms of his wanting to have national unity across our country.

The fact of the matter is that this government has been bluffing. They bluffed in the election, they bluffed in the past six months and now they are caught out.

Mr. Pope: I would like to add my own comments. We have seen not only a retreat by the Premier of this province and the Attorney General in every sense of the word on this issue, but we have also seen the Premier come full circle.

Just about a year ago, the Premier said he wanted to assess the mood of the people of Ontario on this issue, he wanted to get their opinions. He had a cabinet committee reviewing the impact of proposed trade legislation or a free trade agreement with the United States. He then called an election to seek a mandate from the people. He said the people could speak on this issue, his main issue during the provincial election in the fall of 1987.

During the course of that campaign and the months that followed, he said and he boasted that Ontario had a veto, that Ontario could stop the free trade agreement. He then said Ontario could frustrate its implementation. He then said he would mount a constitutional challenge to the agreement itself. He then evolved that position into saying he would mount a constitutional challenge to the agreement itself. He then evolved that position into saying he would mount a constitutional challenge to the legislation when it was introduced. He then said he would challenge any regulations that were introduced to implement the trade agreement.

1400

Now what do we have here virtually stated by the Attorney General speaking on behalf of the Premier? We have words like these: "It is important for all Canadians to understand and openly debate changes in the way we are governed," and "Publication of this report will stimulate a much-needed debate."

Mr. Speaker: The member's time has now expired.

Mr. Pope: We have come full circle. The Premier wants an election on—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. B. Rae: In the light of the statement made by the Attorney General (Mr. Scott), I do want to ask some questions of the Premier as the first minister of the province. I hope he will answer these questions and not simply refer them, because I am not asking for his legal opinion. I am asking what he intends to do politically in the light of the announcement by the federal government yesterday.

Ever since the agreement was signed in September, the Premier has had all this time to determine whether or not the province is going to challenge this agreement in the courts by way of a reference from this province to the Court of Appeal and from there, we all understand, to the Supreme Court of Canada.

I wonder if the Premier can tell us whether it is the government's intention to so challenge this legislation and, in particular, whether it is his intention to challenge section 9 of the act that was proposed yesterday by Mr. Crosbie, which gives the federal government the authority to pass regulations directly in terms of provincial areas of jurisdiction. I would like to ask the Premier whether it is his intention to launch such a challenge.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As I said before, we are in a thorough review of the complete piece of legislation. I think the Attorney General's contribution today is a significant one, as it adds to a discussion right across this country.

I can tell my honourable friend, as I told the federal Minister of International Trade, that we reserve our right, obviously, to launch a court action on a number of potential matters. But all those matters are under analysis at present and I will share my views with the honourable member in due course.

Mr. B. Rae: This just is not acceptable. The Premier, first of all, said he needed an election to get a mandate on free trade. He said there could be no deal. Those were the words he himself spoke during the election, not only in terms of his speeches but in terms of paid advertising by the Liberal Party.

When we had the signing of the agreement, he said, "I have to wait to see the full text." When we got the full text, he said, "I have to wait to see the legislation." Finally, now that they have seen the legislation and it is there—and if I may say so, it is not that complicated; the concept is not that difficult—is it the view of the Premier that the federal government has the authority to legislate directly in areas of provincial jurisdiction? Yes or no?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: My honourable friend may think it is simple, and to his superior mind it may well be, but to a whole range of constitutional experts that is not necessarily the view. There are many aspects to this legislation that are being thought out in some considerable detail, and this is the first part of that.

My honourable friend, had he had the opportunity, may have issued the writ yesterday. I have no idea. Unlike the parties opposite, we are not,

shall we say, extremists, as my honourable friend is. We are charged with a thoughtful direction on this matter and we assume our responsibility.

Mr. B. Rae: Just for the record, I want the Premier to know what I would have done. I would have fought this from 1985. That is when I would have started the fight. I would not have waited until it is far too late to do anything, and sat on the fence and dithered, and gone to the people and said, "I need a mandate," got a mandate and then done nothing with the 94 members I had. That is what the Premier has done and history will judge.

I want to go to the specific question.

Hon. R. F. Nixon: You're out of order.

Mr. B. Rae: The Treasurer will have his day. The Deputy Premier will have his occasion to defend his budget on another day. The question today is for the Premier.

I am not asking the Premier to analyse the entire agreement. I am asking him to look at section 9. Section 9 is that section which states very clearly that the federal government is reserving—not reserving simply, but saying it has the right and will pass regulations to give effect to the agreement in those areas of provincial jurisdiction. I would like to ask the Premier, if he is not going to challenge that section, why in the name of goodness is he not going to challenge that section and how can anybody take him seriously if he is not even prepared to challenge that?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question has been asked.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I appreciate the advice of my honourable colleague. He took his views to the people of this province some time ago.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: You took your views too.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: You took your views too.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Indeed we did and we were charged with the responsibility of exercising thoughtful leadership; so I say to my honourable friend his approach to these matters has been rejected.

I am working closely with the Attorney General and the legal advisers on this matter. Our views on the nature of this agreement are very clear. We do not think it is a good deal; we think it is a bad deal for this country. We are analysing the constitutional implications of this matter, not just as it pertains to section 9, but a number of other sections as well.

I think if my honourable friend has the time to read the Attorney General's document and look

at the reaction by others, he will see that the implications are probably reasonably broad. That is why we have to look at this in a constitutional context, and we will share our views with my honourable friend. If his view is that we should have acted yesterday, then he is entitled to his opinion on that. He would have acted without this particular document, but we are looking at it and we will share our views and our course of action with him.

Mr. B. Rae: It is true that the Premier and I and the leader of the third party all took our views to the people in August. The only difference between the Premier and me is that my views have not changed and his have.

Mr. Speaker: Is your next question to the Premier?

Mr. B. Rae: No.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

Mr. B. Rae: I have a question of the Minister of Labour. I have in my hand a copy of a document which is an internal Workers' Compensation Board document entitled Proposed Changes to Act, dated November 1987. It contains over 100 proposed changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and it has, as they say, come into my hands. I would like to ask the Minister of Labour whether he agrees with the board when it suggests that the definition of the word "accident" should be changed so as to restrict the rights of workers to compensation?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I do not comment on internal documents. It is a document that has not been generated out of the Ministry of Labour. I understand that document was prepared by some lower-level officials within the Workers' Compensation Board. It has not been considered by the board of directors and is not worthy of comment here in the Legislature.

Mr. B. Rae: I have no idea whether the people who have produced this document are lower-level, or were then or are now or will be tomorrow. I do not know, but what I do know is this document is quite extensive. It is obvious from his answer that the minister has seen it.

Interjection.

Mr. B. Rae: How can he say he has not seen it if he knows who produced it? This truly is a miraculous minister who says, "I have not seen the document, but I know it was written by lower-level officials and has not reached the board of directors."

If he is not prepared to comment on the definition of the word "accident," is he prepared

perhaps to answer this question: Does the minister agree with the proposal that all combination or so-called stacking of Canada pension plan and permanent disability pension plan benefits will be stopped if this proposal comes into force? Does the minister agree with that particular proposal?

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: Now and again the Leader of the Opposition is full of sound and fury and what he says signifies very little. Let me just tell him that the document was brought to my attention to the extent that I was told, "The Leader of the Opposition probably will ask you about a document that was prepared, a series of amendments that had been within the consideration of some officials within the Workers' Compensation Board."

Therefore, quite simply, I realize the document exists and that it was prepared by some officials within the board. It was not prepared by officials within the Ministry of Labour and there is no pride of authorship in that document on my part.

He talks about the redefinition of "accident." I can simply tell him that we are not now considering any redefinition of the word "accident" within the Workers' Compensation Act.

1410

Mr. B. Rae: This minister is the first minister since 1915 to preside over a reduction in benefits from the Workers' Compensation Board; the first minister. This is a rather dubious distinction. This is the first minister who has presided over a net reduction in terms of the way in which awards are made by the board.

I wonder if the minister can tell us how he feels being the first Minister of Labour since 1915 to preside over a reduction in benefits.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: We all have our firsts. The Leader of the Opposition is the first Leader of the Opposition to preside over a party that lost seats in the last election and to claim a magnificent victory on September 10.

Mr. B. Rae: There hasn't been an election in which we haven't declared a victory. You name an election when I haven't declared a victory.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order; response.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I really have an answer to the question, Mr. Speaker, if—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Sorbara: I simply tell the Leader of the Opposition that in due course I will be presenting legislation in this House which I think

will make the workers' compensation system more equitable and fair to those who are claimants, a better system in terms of vocational rehabilitation and a system that will provide greater equity and greater humanity to the injured worker community, which in my view is my primary responsibility as Minister of Labour, and I intend to exercise that responsibility as carefully and as judiciously as I can.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Brandt: My question is to the Premier. I have to say that we too share some of the concerns that have been expressed with respect to the response of the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) on the trade agreement. It would appear that we have got the worst of both worlds. We have a government that is opposed to an agreement and will not fight it, and yet we do not have a government that is in favour of the agreement and is prepared to work with the federal government to take advantage of some of the very real benefits within that agreement.

Since in the election of last year he took a very, very strong position relative to all the things he could do in order to stop this agreement, I ask the Premier his position. I understand full well what the New Democrats would do had they won the election; they would be taking this matter to court, obviously, or taking some other steps. Had we won the election, we would be working with the federal government to implement the trade agreement. What is it that his government is prepared to do other than to sit in the radical centre and do nothing?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: The member is absolutely right. We do have the worst of both worlds: We have him and the New Democratic Party.

I believe this government has expressed its view very clearly on the nature and the quality of this particular agreement. I will not go through the history of the entire matter, but we think this brings the Americans to the table in this country in a way that is unprecedented in our history and that will reduce a lot of our collective power to make decisions about our own future.

We are undergoing a thorough analysis of this document at the present time and we will share our views with the member on that matter. We have an enormous number of concerns. They will be laid against the benchmark of the analysis the Attorney General has put forward. I understand the temptation to give quick and superficial answers for my friend opposite, but let me tell him, this is a complicated situation and we will share it with him. The member is quite right; he

supports this deal and we do not believe it is in the national interest, as many other people do not believe it is in the national interest.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: But you are not prepared to stop it.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, I say to my honourable friend that apart from his hooting and hollering, he does not have any particular ideas on how to work this out in a thoughtful, legal way. I can tell my honourable friend that the Attorney General is working on that matter now with his colleagues and will share that with him in due course.

Mr. Brandt: When the Premier talks about being quick, slick and superficial, he had it in spades on September 10 when he sold his position to the people of this province and then completely turned it around, as he is doing today in this House, I have to tell him. While the Premier of this province is dallying around with a nonposition, not moving one way or the other with respect to the trade agreement, let me tell him what the province of Quebec is doing.

The province of Quebec is taking advantage of the opportunities of an open border between ourselves and the United States to send trade missions into that country to let them know that they welcome a trade opportunity to increase their exports into that market. I will tell the Premier what his government has done: It has closed two trade offices in the United States and it now has a part-time man looking after the New York office.

Is the Premier prepared to take any initiatives to enhance Ontario's trade with the United States, and if so, what might those initiatives be?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend knows quite well of the initiatives that have been undertaken by this government in the Far East and Europe as well as in the United States. As a matter of fact, I think my honourable friend joined us in Japan on one of the trade missions and of course, as he usually is, he was a very significant addition to that particular mission.

The trade will continue with or without this agreement. I do not think my honourable friend would want to give the impression that trade would stop if this agreement does not go on. What it really does is remove our power as a country to make decisions to enhance our capacity to trade internationally in the future. It is not as if this government is against trade, and I do not think he would want to cast it in that way. It is a question of whether this deal has enhanced our capacity to build a competitive society in the

future, and we do not believe that it has. Trade will continue regardless.

Mr. Brandt: Let me thank the Premier for his compliments with respect to my input to the Far East trade mission. I appreciate that, and some day I will take him along for a ride too. I meant that in a charitable way.

Mr. Speaker: I presume you have a supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: My final supplementary to the Premier is in connection with the issue of our export trade with the United States. I did not get an answer to my first question, which was with respect to initiatives to be taken by his government to enhance our trade with the US market. Let me remind the Premier—I know that he is aware of these facts, and I find myself somewhat taken aback by the fact that, as a former businessman, he would not want to find a way to enhance our marketability to our largest trading partner—fully 90 per cent of all of the exports out of this province go to the United States. The Premier is well aware of that. One of the things this trade document does is to maintain that kind of civility of trade between two of the major trading partners in the entire world, Canada and the United States.

What I am asking the government to do—and, through the Premier, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Mr. Kwinter)—is to begin to take some of the initiatives that Alberta and British Columbia and Quebec have already undertaken with respect to trade missions into that country to improve our access to that market.

Mr. Speaker: I believe the question has been asked.

Interjections.

Mr. Brandt: As soon as you got up, I started my question.

Mr. Speaker: It seems to me I heard a question.

Mr. Brandt: Will the Premier seriously take under consideration, even though he indicates he is opposed to the trade agreement, some initiatives into the American market by reopening some of those trade offices or by aggressively pursuing market opportunities that will present themselves to this province if he moves now?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I do not think we necessarily increase trade by adding bureaucracy, I say to my honourable friend. But let me say, if he followed the initiatives of this government in the last two years, with the Premier's

Council—very substantive things to build the competitive infrastructure in this province—my friend would know we are way beyond the question he just asked. There are the things that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) has done in the budget with respect to capital—

Mr. Brandt: Oh, that'll help. Oh, that's a sweetheart, that is.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Of course it will.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Well, my honourable friend does not understand basic economics.

He compares us to Quebec. Let me tell him what they are doing in Quebec, for my honourable friend's enlightenment. I just got this Canadian Press wire; it says:

"Free trade legislation tabled in the Commons on Tuesday represents an intrusion into provincial affairs, says Pierre MacDonald, Quebec minister of foreign trade.

"It is unacceptable to the government of Quebec," MacDonald said, citing an article of the bill which specifies that Ottawa retains all residual power to apply the free trade law. 'It's obvious this article is an interference in provincial jurisdiction.'"

My honourable friend can see that they are starting to catch up now to the things that we have been saying for some time.

1420

Mr. Pope: In the meantime, the Premier of Quebec supports the free trade agreement, and Quebec is leading trade missions in the United States that are going to create more jobs and more economic opportunities for the people of Quebec. The Premier of Ontario refuses to help the people of Ontario in the same way.

We have seen the evolution of the Premier's position on the free trade agreement. What he is saying now is by no stretch of the imagination what he said to the people of Ontario in 1987. He promised a veto. He promised he could stop it. He promised a constitutional challenge. Now he is talking about a public debate. That is not what he said in 1987; that is not what he said or what he promised.

We now have an agreement that has been signed for some months now. We now have implementing legislation. The Premier is still toying around with whether or not there will be a challenge eventually under some regulation or not. I want to know, will there be a constitutional challenge mounted? Will it be heard before January 1, 1989, when this agreement goes into effect?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think I was asked that question a few moments ago, and I think I answered it then, but I will answer it again for my honourable friend. There are many, many options in front of this government at the present time and they are all being explored. We do not rule out a constitutional challenge by any stretch of the imagination, and I told the federal minister exactly that. We reserve our right to do that. Discussing all options, as we are, we will share those with the members when we have reached a conclusion.

Mr. Pope: This is a major agreement. It has economic consequences in terms of employment for men and women in this province. It has consequences on the small business sector in terms of new, enhanced economic opportunities for expansion and growth. It has consequences on the resource sector of this province.

We now have an agreement in place, and implementing legislation has been introduced. There needs to be some certainty on whether or not the businesses and the working men and women of this province can proceed under the terms of a free trade agreement as implemented by federal law; that date is January 1, 1989. Is the Premier going to leave everyone in this province hanging, including the working men and women, or is he going to get off it and start taking a position and mount a challenge before January 1, 1989, if he intends to?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: I think my honourable friend is jumping to conclusions. The legislation was introduced yesterday in the House. It has not passed and it is not the law of the land, as he is aware. There are two national parties that are against the situation. It does not come into effect until January 1, and it also depends to a large measure on what comes back to the US legislation as well. We have time to look at that, and I can tell my honourable friend that we will be sharing those views with him shortly.

Mr. Pope: The Premier knows that is not acceptable. It gives no certainty to working men and women in the province of Ontario. It gives no certainty to the business community in this province who can take advantage of this trade agreement and implementing legislation.

The Premier knows the deadline is January 1. Is he going to do anything to prevent businesses of this province from taking advantage of this federal legislation in the trade agreement? Is he going to prevent them from doing it? Is he going to allow them to do it and cut them off at the knees later on with a constitutional challenge? Does he not think we have a right to know today,

exactly what his constitutional and legal position is going to be so that there can be some certainty, so that the business community can take advantage of this arrangement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: As usual, I think my honourable friend is completely misstating and overstating the case and the situation. As I have said, we are under no obligation in our view to implement matters that we believe are in provincial jurisdiction. I have said that before and that continues to be my view. With respect to what we do legally, we will share that with the members in the not-too-distant future.

As to what happens politically in Ottawa over the next few months, my honourable friend may think there is certainty there, but there are many others who do not share that view. I have said before that I believe the people of this country will pass judgement on this document somehow or other in the not-too-distant future. My guess is they will find it sorely wanting.

PROPERTY SPECULATION

Mr. Laughren: I have a question for the Minister of Housing. The Minister of Housing will know that on May 20, Toronto city council strongly endorsed a motion calling for the province to introduce a land speculation tax.

In view of the fact that the Minister of Housing and the Premier (Mr. Peterson) have been calling on municipalities to do something in order to make housing more available in the province, can the minister tell us if she endorses that motion by Toronto city council in order to indicate that her words are not hollow.

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am glad to be able to talk about the work that we are doing with municipalities, which the honourable member knows is taking very seriously all their views. Just last week, on Friday, in fact, I visited Ottawa and worked with them to sign a framework agreement on the way in which we are going to be working on housing issues together.

To respond to the honourable member's particular comment about the vote from the municipal council, I of course will take seriously any recommendations and suggestions made by any municipal council in the province.

Mr. Laughren: The Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) says no, the Premier says he will think about it and the Minister of Housing says she will look at it as well, and think about it and take it seriously.

I will give the minister a specific example that might make the point for her. On January 29, City Shelter Management—the minister may be

aware of that company—purchased 186 Geoffrey Street for \$304,000 and then filled the building up with rooming-house tenants. City Shelter has now put the building up for sale at the price of \$429,000, \$125,000 more than the original purchase price and it is indicating vacant possession of the building, which means that those tenants will now be looking for alternative shelter, as well.

That is not the only thing that City Shelter did.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a question?

Mr. Laughren: One other example, if I might, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: I think it is fair. It is fair.

Mr. Speaker: I would like to be as fair as possible to all members; I know you are aware of that. However, surely one example would lead into a supplementary.

Mr. Laughren: I will rest my case on that example because surely it is a strong enough example that the minister simply cannot ignore.

My question to the minister is, given the city council's strong endorsement of a land speculation tax and given this kind of evidence that that is exactly what is driving up prices, particularly in the Metropolitan Toronto area, could the minister tell us why she will not endorse that motion by the city of Toronto?

Hon. Ms. Hošek: I am, of course, very concerned by any evidence of significant increases in housing in this province because they make life harder for people who want to buy homes, but the member should know that this issue is one that is going to involve a variety of ministries in discussion. In order to make any decision, it would have to be the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Grandmaître), the Treasurer and various other people who are involved in the discussion.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. J. M. Johnson: On May 1, 1988, David Elgie, a disabled citizen from Fergus, was advised by Dr. Hugh Cameron of the Orthopaedic and Arthritic Hospital, Wellesley Street, that his hip replacement operation would not be booked until April 4, 1989—one full year. On May 5, 1988, Mr. Elgie was advised that the date for his surgery had been postponed until June 12, 1990—two full years.

Mr. Elgie's former hip replacement has deteriorated. He is in constant pain and can only walk with the assistance of crutches. He cannot tolerate the pain for another two years and has asked for my advice.

David Elgie has asked me if he should give up on the Ontario health care system and seek an operation in the United States. Would the minister tell me what I should tell David Elgie to do?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: We discussed this issue in the House on a number of occasions and, as the member knows, I am very concerned about the length of some waiting lines at hospitals for specific procedures. We are at all times reviewing that. What it tells me is that we have to have the kind of planning process in place so that we can address where to expand services to meet those kinds of needs.

As I have said before, there are a number of hospitals in the province that offer that kind of service. We know that the waiting lines are different lengths at different hospitals. We know as well that the physicians prioritize where on the waiting list their patients are placed. I will be willing, if the member would like to give me details of this particular case, to provide him with a list of all the facilities that offer that surgery so he can seek another opinion.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I did send the minister full details a couple weeks ago, but David Elgie is just one example of a disabled citizen who is having difficulties with the Ontario health care system. He has taken the day to come to Toronto to present his case. Mr. Elgie is in the Speaker's gallery. Would the minister take just two minutes of her time after question period to meet with Mr. Elgie so that he may have the opportunity to describe to her personally how the health care system has failed him?

1430

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: I am always pleased to meet citizens who have come to question period and I would be pleased to have a chat with the member's constituent following question period. But let me remind the member that waiting lists and waiting lines are not new. They are something we have been experiencing for some 5 to 10 years in this province. One of the things we want to do, as we have a well-planned and well-managed system, is to be able to respond to the needs of the people of this province so that they can have needed surgery as close to home as possible when they need it.

We rely on the physicians of this province to offer that surgery and make the determinations of where on the waiting list people are placed, according to their needs for surgery. We also know services are provided across this province. We monitor on an ongoing basis not only those lines, but also seek advice from the district health

councils as to where we should expand those services. It is an issue I am very concerned about and one we are attempting to address through good planning and good management in our health care system.

PREMIER'S COUNCIL

Mr. J. B. Nixon: My question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology. In the recent report of the Premier's Council, entitled *Competing in the New Global Economy*, there were a number of recommendations to promote higher-value-added manufacturing by Ontario exporters.

The report makes it clear that a number of the council's recommendations are based on a consensus of labour, the business community, financial institutions and the scientific community. What is the government doing to implement those recommendations and to support this consensus?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: Members will know that the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) in his recent budget announced three initiatives which are going to address three of the major concerns of the Premier's Council. One of them has to do with the research and development superallowance, whereby large firms will have an additional 25 per cent allowance and small firms will have 35 per cent, and that will encourage research and development.

Another area is the technology personnel program, whereby small companies can engage engineers and technologists to help them compete.

The last one deals with the strategic procurement policy, whereby we are going to provide incentives for companies to get involved in supplying goods and services to the provincial government.

All of these things will go a long way to bringing Ontario into the technological forefront we think is essential.

Mr. J. B. Nixon: My supplementary question has to do with the future of the Premier's Council. A number of the council's ideas and recommendations appear quite worth while and respond to the dramatic changes that are taking place in our global trading economy. As these changes continue to occur, will the Premier's Council continue to meet and will it continue to work within its same mandate?

Hon. Mr. Kwinter: The Premier's Council will certainly continue to meet. It is going to monitor the various programs that are under the technology fund and, as the member will know,

there is \$1 billion in there and there are some very substantial programs that are going to be ongoing.

They are also going to look at what they think is the major thrust of what we have to do, that is, to look at people. They are going to look at the whole area of education, skills development, worker adjustment and that whole area of concern to us and they are going to have subcommittees which will be investigating all of those areas.

SEWAGE DUMP SITE

Miss Martel: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. It is concerning a situation of which he is very much aware, that is, the continued dumping of raw sewage in Dill township in my riding. The minister will know that for many months now his ministry has allegedly been attempting to transfer the dumping operations from the present site to a new site on the Burwash property.

Most recently, I was advised that two issues are still outstanding. First, a site survey of the new site has to be completed and, second, some form of leasing arrangement has to be agreed upon between the ministries of Government Services and the Environment before the transfer can take place.

Given the fact that an agreement was reached in September 1987 between his ministry and Government Services to transfer control of the land to the Ministry of the Environment, why is it now that we are in the position that these types of issues are delaying the transfer?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is quite correct when she indicates that this is an extremely complicated problem, which has involved not only a number of government agencies at the provincial level and the local level, but also citizens in the area and a private operator. I think the member has also recognized something I learned about two days into being the Minister of the Environment and several days, I guess, into being an MPP, and that is that nobody wants it in anybody's backyard and that even the new site that has been selected as being a superior site has people who are opposed to that—surprise, surprise.

The member has worked very hard on this issue, as did her predecessor, and we are going to try to resolve it just as quickly as possible. She is justifiably impatient because there have been a number of legal complications which have prevented the kind of solution that she and I would like to see at the earliest point in time.

However, I can assure her that we will continue to work with the Ministry of Government Services, with other government agencies and with the local government in an effort to try to smooth out the legal process and remove the legal impediments to what I consider to be a final and good solution to this problem.

Miss Martel: There is good reason why I am impatient. Let me just refer to two letters that I have received, one a copy from the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and the other from the minister himself.

In a letter from the Premier to the residents of that area, he said, "I am advised that the ministry"—of the Environment—"expects to finalize site transfer arrangements in the near future." That was March 28, 1988.

The minister himself sent a letter to me dated April 6, 1988, where he said, "I am confident that the present negotiations will lead to a relocation of the septage dump site by early May."

Can the minister please advise this House and the residents when a relocation of this site is going to take place?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: It would be my hope that we would be able to resolve this problem in the relatively near future. I know that is not as definitive an answer as she would like, but I can say next week and it might not happen next week.

I can say we will make a maximum effort to work with her and the other authorities in the area to ensure that we have a suitable site. I will underline the fact that whatever site is chosen is not going to be suitable to the people who reside in that specific area. All of us really are, I guess to put it bluntly, sewage treatment plants to a certain extent and we all produce waste.

Mrs. Grier: Some more than others.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Some more than others. Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Some of the members may not entirely agree that is always the case, but I want to assure her that I will do everything I can to ensure that the process will move more quickly. I hope to have this matter resolved in the relatively near future, working with all local authorities.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Mr. Eves: I have a question for the Minister of Health. In a recent article in the *Toronto Star*, it has been suggested that the ministry should be setting guidelines to determine who should receive costly heart surgery. Over the past

several weeks she has told hospitals to control their costs, but she has yet to tell hospitals which patients should or should not receive treatment. Does the minister not agree that it is her responsibility as Minister of Health to set guidelines for the provision of procedures such as heart surgery?

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: In fact, that is a premise which I do not believe is appropriate at this time for the ministry. I believe and rely on the advice from the physicians who perform the surgery and who recommend patients for care.

Mr. Eves: Funny she should speak of physicians. Dr. Tirone David, head of cardiovascular surgery at the Toronto Hospital, was quoted as saying:

"I do 400 (open-heart operations) a year and I always lose patients while they are waiting. I lose at least two or three patients every year from my long waiting list and I lose another 10 or so from my short list."

In case the minister cannot add, that is a minimum of 12 or 13 a year. This is a tragic situation. Every single cardiovascular surgeon in Metro Toronto has said that he or she loses the same number of patients, on average, every single year.

Dr. David goes on to say, "I don't sleep at night because of this." Does the minister sleep at night?

Interjections.

Mr. Eves: You people do not want to spend any money on anything.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mrs. Caplan: The issue of waiting lists, particularly in the area of cardiovascular care, is something we have discussed in this House on a number of occasions. We know as well that this issue is not a new one. I have met recently, as I told the member, with representatives from the Toronto hospitals—cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and district health councils—who monitor on an ongoing basis those needs.

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We recognize that there is a need to increase capacity, but we also know that this has been a result of some unexpected trends. In fact, there is divergent opinion which concerns me greatly. We know that without an increase in the disease a wider range of individuals are being recommended for surgery, and there are some questions about the individuals who are being recommended, as well as how long they have to wait.

It is something we review on an ongoing basis. I trust the medical judgement of those who advise me. If they feel, as they do, that there is a need to increase the capacity, we will move to do that.

SCHOOL FUNDING

Mr. Owen: I have a question for the Minister of Education. Last winter I approached the minister and pointed out the funding problems for Jean Vanier High School in the town of Collingwood in Simcoe county. I pointed out, as I understand others did as well, that the burden of financing this school was bleeding the finances of that school board. I wonder if the minister can update us as to the situation and status of full funding for that school.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I know this is a matter of concern to the member and I thank him for giving me notice of his question.

As he is aware, the school was previously denied funding under extension because of concerns about its viability. The director of the Simcoe County Roman Catholic Separate School Board wrote to the Planning and Implementation Commission asking it to review the circumstances at Jean Vanier High School. I am pleased to inform the member that the recommendation of the Planning and Implementation Commission was to extend funding in the coming year. That decision has been conveyed to the board.

Mr. Owen: I want to thank the minister for that favourable decision.

In the community, there has been some concern expressed as to the quality and performance of the school because the full funding has not been available. I wonder if the minister can give some comment or reassurance to the people involved as to the quality of what is being provided at Jean Vanier.

Hon. Mr. Ward: I think it is fair to say that, its being such a small school with such a modest enrolment, the concern is the viability of the programs that will be made available. Over the course of the next three years, the central Ontario regional office will continue to monitor the programs there, but the extension of funding no doubt will assist that board in delivering quality programs at that facility.

Mr. Farnan: Today being Canada Fitness Day, it seems appropriate to draw the attention of the Minister of Education to the situation that exists at St. Vincent de Paul School in Cambridge. It seems absolutely extraordinary that in 1988 the Minister of Education would permit the opening of a new school without a gymnasium. Given the fact that St. Vincent de Paul School is

designed so that additions can be added to the existing structure, will the minister today give a guarantee that he will provide the funds and have a gymnasium added to St. Vincent de Paul School for September 1988?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I appreciate the member's concern about the school facilities that are available in his riding, but I should point out to the member that the approval of capital funds is usually done on the basis of capital expenditure forecasts that are submitted each fall by the various school boards in Ontario. Prior to my attendance at the chamber today, I did look into the capital expenditure forecast of the board relative to St. Vincent de Paul. Its request this year was solely for the approval of a portapac addition to that facility. The capital expenditure plan that was released some three or four weeks ago provided funds for that portapac extension, but I do have to inform the member that there was no request for a gymnasium contained in that forecast.

Mr. Farnan: I accept the information the minister has given as being valid. I point out that when the parents of this school met to discuss their concerns, they could not even meet in the school but had to meet in an adjoining school.

I have a petition here signed by 378 parents. Among their concerns are lack of gym facilities, the classroom time lost busing children to alternative facilities, and the lack of facilities for assemblies and for intramural and extramural activities.

Looking at the situation as it exists now, will the minister recognize that there is an unfairness to the parents and the children being served in communities whose schools are lacking such basic facilities? Will he grant St. Vincent de Paul School a gym this September and will this minister never again approve a school without a gym facility? Will the minister give these assurances?

Hon. Mr. Ward: I appreciate the concerns of the member and of his constituents and I am happy to receive his petition, but I hope the member will understand that there is very much a shared responsibility in terms of the delivery of education in this province. We rely on the capital expenditure submissions of the various boards of education as to the priority of the needs that exist within his community and others. Certainly, should the board in its October submission indicate this as a capital priority and request the funds, we will consider it. I have to indicate to the member, though, that I do not foresee a

circumstance in which I could grant the funds for a project that the board itself does not request.

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Runciman: I have a question for the Premier, again related to the free trade agreement. It concerns Ontario Hydro's submission last month to the Ontario Energy Board, in which Hydro projected that the free trade agreement will add approximately three per cent to the gross provincial product over the next 10 years. This directly contradicts the Premier's oft-stated position that the free trade agreement will bring no significant benefit to Ontario. Either one position or the other has to be wrong. They cannot both be right. Does the Premier think the Ontario Hydro position is correct or incorrect?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: It is an independent crown corporation. It has its views and I have my views. I have no idea what its views are.

Mr. Runciman: That response did not deal with my question at all. It strikes me as a rather remarkable contradiction between the Premier and the province's largest crown corporation. Surely it is the Premier's duty to resolve what appears to be a major policy conflict within his government and throughout government and have a uniform policy.

Has the Premier asked Ontario Hydro to take another look at its projection and is he prepared to review his own projection on the free trade agreement?

Hon. Mr. Peterson: Maybe it just proves that free trade wastes energy. I have no idea. I have not looked at the particular submission of the crown corporation. It is not a pawn of this government any more than this government is a pawn of Ontario Hydro. This may be difficult for my friend to understand, but it is our position that we do not believe this free trade agreement is in the interests of this country. We believe we have invited Uncle Sam to sit over our shoulder on every single decision. I ask my honourable friend to analyse this in a little bit of detail. My guess is he will come to the same conclusion.

WATER QUALITY

Mrs. Grier: I have a question for the Minister of the Environment.

[Applause]

Mrs. Grier: I appreciate the applause, but I wish the members would not take up the time, because the minister usually takes up quite enough on his own behalf.

The minister will be aware that today I released a summary of a variety of reports that show the waterfront in my riding is as polluted as in any urban area around the Great Lakes. Most of that pollution comes from storm sewers which are flowing into the Humber River, the Mimico Creek, the Etobicoke Creek and directly into Lake Ontario.

Can the minister tell the House what precisely he has accomplished in the three years he has been minister to cut down on the runoff into urban watercourses by storm sewers across the province?

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Mr. Speaker: I hope it does not take one minute per year.

Hon. Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I should ask the permission of the House to have the time for my answer extended.

What the member has conveniently ignored in her presentation, as I would if I were sitting in opposition, is the accomplishments which have been forthcoming as a result of our programs.

First, the member has not mentioned that the Ministry of the Environment has spent, since we became the government, on this specific problem we are talking about, the Toronto waterfront, some \$17.5 million, which has triggered, when taking into consideration the other agencies involved in this, some \$40 million of expenditures spent on cleaning up the waterfront and dealing with the Humber and Don rivers.

There are at the present time—and I know the member is an advocate of this—in the process some four retention tanks in the city of York itself, the beginning, I understand, of some 41 retention tanks which are going to be constructed to deal with this problem. In Etobicoke, the municipality the member represents and represented on municipal council, there is a sewer separation program which has been under way for some time. Municipalities that go into Etobicoke will take away some of the problem that exists when there is an overflow at the sewage treatment plant.

There has been the removal of literally hundreds of illegal connections, cross-sections between sanitary and storm sewers, which has taken place as a result of the action of our ministry and of local municipalities in Etobicoke, North York and York over the past several years.

The upstream rural pollution problems which exist—

Mr. Speaker: I think that is quite complete. That actually gave you time to go through two years.

Mrs. Grier: I think what the minister did was talk about the previous 10 years, and a lot of things that have been implemented by municipalities and a lot of things that have been begun. What I had hoped the minister would say was what precisely he had accomplished in the way of cutting down the runoff into storm sewers, and he has not accomplished anything, as is shown by the data, as is shown by the fact that the Toronto waterfront—you cannot fish in the water, you cannot swim in it, and I am beginning to be concerned as to whether you ought to drink it.

Usually, when these questions are asked—

Mr. Speaker: And I am waiting for the question.

Mrs. Grier: —the minister drags out his municipal-industrial strategy for abatement program, and I am quite disappointed that he did not have time to say “MISA” today, because that was what I expected.

My supplementary to the minister is: Given that when he announced his MISA program two years ago, it was supposed to have in place by now monitoring regulations for at least five of the industrial sectors, and given that we have not in place a single monitoring regulation, how does he think the kinds of expenditures he has outlined are going to solve the problem when there is no better control on what is going from industry into those storm sewers?

Hon. Mr. Bradley: The member is going all over the map on this one. She has to make up her mind what question she is going to ask, because the supplementary had nothing at all to do with the original question.

What she is talking about when she channels herself into that area is the municipal aspect of the MISA program. I can tell her that some of her New Democratic Party friends and some Conservative friends who sit on municipal organizations made representations to me, saying in fact that we are moving far too quickly and that we are not giving enough time for consideration and input from the municipalities in dealing with these problems.

The member makes a reference to drinking water. She will know, for instance, that we have a drinking water surveillance program in the province where we look for well over 100 contaminants. We have found they meet the objectives of the Ministry of the Environment, objectives developed by those who are experts in toxicology and health and other areas. She will know we have implemented the plant optimization program in the province where we are upgrading equipment, where we are improving

maintenance and where we are providing special training for those who implement it.

When she suggests these other exotic ways of dealing with those, I simply say to her that I met with the people who actually sell those famous systems and not one of them could guarantee that they could remove contaminants in parts per quadrillion.

TORONTO AREA TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Cousens: I have a question for the Minister of Transportation. Yesterday, the minister had a very impressive, neatly packaged press kit—which accomplished a great deal of publicity with all the fact sheets, backgrounders and glossy maps of greater Toronto and area—to unveil the so-called new transportation announcement of the David Peterson government.

Among the various items outlined in the minister's press package yesterday was his plan to provide additional commuter trains in the Markham-Scarborough area, which currently accesses the Stouffville line. I want to ask the minister exactly what kinds of studies have been conducted into the feasibility of adding trains to the Markham-Scarborough line and, specifically, what costs such action will incur.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: There are constant and ongoing negotiations with the railways with respect to GO Transit and adding train service in various directions. I think the member should not limit himself to the one line of GO trains. We are looking at some very specific short-term improvements in the congestion that exists in the Metro and surrounding regions today, as well as the vision of the longer-term provision of efficient interregional transportation for all four of those regions, as indicated in the announcement yesterday.

Mr. Cousens: I have reason to believe that the minister would like us to look somewhere else than where he has a problem. We have already spoken with the urban planning group of engineers at Canadian National Railway and also with some GO Transit officials and have learned that not a single basic feasibility study has yet been done on that line. The government did not even bother checking to see if adding a train in Markham is feasible.

The truth is that at least half a dozen complications—the need for an environmental assessment, signalization, current freight activity and grade separations—will arise in adding another train to the Stouffville line. In fact, a CN project engineer told us that current load use on the Stouffville line, which feeds into Metro by a

CN line along the lakeshore, is now functioning at peak capacity—

Mr. Speaker: The question.

Mr. Cousens: —with just one train. As a result, the CN engineer said that the only way to add a new train to the Stouffville line is by running a train at midnight.

Mr. Speaker: Would the engineer have a question, please?

Mr. Cousens: Why did the minister overlook the consultative process in this regard, and does he plan on running a midnight train for the people in Markham and Scarborough?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The member is well aware that wherever we have announced, in the past and present, the expansion of GO service or any other transportation service, continuous negotiation has to go on. In each case, we have been very successful and we will of course be successful with regard to expansion of GO service into Markham.

Certainly, the member's mayor is very anxious to see it. She was very supportive of the announcement made yesterday, and one of the reasons we are locating the gateways in Milliken and at Steeles is to serve the public in the member's region.

COMMUNITY SERVICE ORDERS

Ms. Bryden: I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. Last week I drew to the attention of the House the need for his ministry to ensure that adequate services are available to young offenders who are serving part of their sentences through fulfilling community service orders.

Community Centre No. 55 in my riding sponsors a CSO operation that has built up a reputation over several years for providing young offenders with innovative rehabilitation programs which help them to become law-abiding, self-supporting members of our society.

Is the minister aware that the continuation of this operation is in jeopardy because the grant offered by his ministry does not cover the costs, at Toronto wage levels, of two full-time staff members, which is the bare minimum needed to provide an adequate program for the case load assigned to them by the courts?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: I certainly support the honourable member's indication that the alternative measures program that she outlined, the community service order, is a valuable component of our services to young offenders. As I am sure she probably knows, we have quite a

number of those in various places around the province.

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I was not aware specifically of the particular dilemma that she brought to my attention. I will certainly investigate it. I can tell her, however, that the young offenders program all over the province can use more resources. I am hoping that within the next month we will be able to allocate more of our budget to that program. I will certainly look into the specific one that she mentioned. I was not aware of it before.

Ms. Bryden: I am sure the minister is aware that the Attorney General (Mr. Scott) has announced a new program of alternative measures for young offenders now before the courts. This may result in an increased case load for administrators of CSOs.

Is this the time to let an experienced and highly respected agency like Centre 55 leave the CSO program because it can no longer subsidize what is really part of the judicial system and because it faces staff burnout and staff turnover under the present inadequate funding supplied by the ministry to this very important rehabilitation service for young offenders?

Hon. Mr. Sweeney: As the member rightly points out, the official alternative measures program, which has been introduced by my ministry in just the last little while, along with the various alternatives that she has described, is performing a very effective service.

I point out to her that in the particular situation she described to me, members of my local office staff have been in touch with that agency and have determined along with it that part of the problem is the large number of referrals that are being made to it. My staff and that organization are working together right now to alleviate part of the problem by reducing the significant number of referrals. That is not going to solve the whole problem, but it will, in the short run, deal with part of the stress and tension that the members working in that agency have to face at the present time.

There is a short-term impact, and there will be a longer-term one as we continue to work with the agency.

PETITIONS

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Wildman: I have a petition signed by approximately 20 residents of Welland. It reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I add my name to it. I support the petition.

AVORTEMENT

M. Pope: M. le Président, j'ai une pétition signée par quinze personnes de ma circonscription électorale de Cochrane-Sud.

«A l'honorable lieutenant-gouverneur et à l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario:

«Attendu que le 28 janvier 1988, la Cour suprême du Canada a aboli la Loi sur l'avortement, parce que considérée en opposition à la Charte des droits et libertés;

«Attendu que cette décision laisse les enfants à naître du Canada sans aucune protection légale;

«Nous demandons à votre gouvernement:

«a) de rédiger une loi donnant aux enfants à naître les mêmes droits à la vie, et les mêmes protections que tout autre membre de notre société;

«b) de passer un amendement à la section 251 de la Charte des droits qui outrepassse la décision de la Cour suprême jusqu'à ce que la nouvelle loi entre en vigueur.

«Nous croyons que votre gouvernement a à coeur le respect de la vie, que tous les Canadiens nés, et nous sommes assurés que vous agirez rapidement et sûrement pour le bien de toute notre société canadienne.»

TRADE WITH UNITED STATES

Mr. Pope: I also have a petition forwarded to me by the Ontario Federation of Labour, signed by approximately 24 residents of the riding of Cochrane South, in opposition to the free trade agreement.

NATUROPATHY

Mr. Pope: Finally, I have a petition signed by approximately 80 residents of the riding of Cochrane South with respect to the deregulation of naturopathy.

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Mr. Charlton: I have a petition on the issue of Sunday shopping.

"To the Honourable Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario residing in the region of Hamilton-Wentworth, support the intent of the recommendation of the all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature and the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and recognizing the need for a common pause day for family nurture.

"We therefore call upon Premier David Peterson and his government to pass province-wide legislation rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and uphold Sunday as our common pause day."

This petition is signed by 208 residents of Hamilton-Wentworth and I have added my own name to the petition.

TAX INCREASES

Mrs. Cunningham: I have a petition signed by 1,000 irate taxpayers in the province of Ontario, which reads as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"The Ontario budget contains excessive tax increases, which are a direct attack on the middle class. I object, and I demand that you repeal these taxes."

It goes on further to say, believe it or not, "Bob Nixon, you've gone too far."

I have signed my name to this petition and I submit it respectfully to this House.

Mr. Speaker: I noted you were reading from the back of—

Hon. Mr. Conway: What would John Robarts think of this kind of behaviour?

Mrs. Cunningham: He would be very proud.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I noted you were reading from the back of a sign, therefore that must be part of the petition. Would you send that to the table?

RETAIL STORE HOURS

Ms. Bryden: I have the honour to present, on behalf of 80 residents in my riding, a petition to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario on the subject of Sunday shopping. The petition states, in part:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"Whereas it is the stated intention of the Liberal government of Ontario to change the

legislation governing the conduct of business on Sundays; and...

"Whereas a very broad array of trade unions, religious organizations, small and large retailers, groups concerned about the quality of life in Ontario, families and individuals have publicly indicated their opposition to the government's intentions, on the basis that it will lead precisely to wide-open Sunday shopping, thereby harming working families and working people; and

"Whereas the government's stated intentions can only increase existing pressures on working people and working families and result in less fairness for them, by reducing their ability to spend time together;

"We urge the Liberal government not to proceed according to its recent statements of intent, but instead urge it to maintain and strengthen the Retail Business Holidays Act; to retain under provincial jurisdiction legislation regulating Sunday work hours; to not pass the buck to municipal governments on this issue; and to give effect to a common pause day for working people and working families in Ontario."

I have signed this petition and support it.

Mr. Philip: I have a petition signed by 90 residents of Hamilton-Wentworth. Another 20 have signed a similar petition, also from the same area.

"We, the undersigned citizens of Ontario, residing in the region of Hamilton-Wentworth, support the intent and recommendation of the all-party committee of the Ontario Legislature and the ruling handed down by the Supreme Court of Canada rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and recognizing the need for a common pause day for family nurture.

"We therefore call upon Premier David Peterson and his government to pass province-wide legislation rejecting wide-open Sunday shopping and uphold Sunday as our common day of pause."

I have signed both of these petitions.

Miss Martel: I have a petition signed by 19 residents of the riding of Sudbury East and it reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"In recognition of the importance of a day of pause in our Canadian society, we ask that the Retail Business Holidays Act be maintained and strengthened, that the act remain under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Legislature rather than be transferred to local municipalities for administration."

I have signed my name to that as well and I am in agreement with them.

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INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

WEED CONTROL ACT

LOI SUR LA DESTRUCTION DES MAUVAISES HERBES

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 138, An Act to revise the Weed Control Act.

L'hon. M. Riddell propose la première lecture du projet de loi 138, Loi de 1988 sur la destruction des mauvaises herbes.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The purpose of the act is to reduce the infestation of agricultural and urban properties with weeds growing outside a landowner's property, to reduce health hazards from weeds such as ragweed and poison ivy, and to reduce the incidence of plant diseases by controlling alternate host plants; for example, cereal rust on common barberry and European buckthorn. The primary purpose of this amendment is to increase the fines that are levied as well as to update the original legislation. Under the new bill, the minister will have the authority to designate the chief inspector and all municipalities will have the authority to designate local problem weeds as noxious. The increased fines will be a deterrent to potential offenders, particularly developers and absentee landlords.

GRAIN ELEVATOR STORAGE AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 139, An Act to amend the Grain Elevator Storage Act, 1983.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: This act directs the licensing and regulation of grain elevators that store grain for several owners, most of whom are producers. Licensing and inspecting the elevators ensures that the financial interest of the owners is protected. The primary purpose of this amendment to the legislation is the enhancement of the marketing of Ontario grain. This will be accomplished by authorizing grain elevator operators to market the stored produce with the authority of the chief inspector. The grain elevator operator will provide full compensation to the chief inspector for its market value, an approach which will protect the interests of the owners of the grain.

FARM PRODUCTS CONTAINERS ACT

Hon. Mr. Riddell moved first reading of Bill 140, An Act to revise the Farm Products Containers Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Riddell: The Act provides a mechanism for agricultural producer associations to fund themselves through a fee which is added to the sale price of product containers. Since the act names only honey and fruit and vegetable producers, other producer associations cannot participate. Also there is currently no provision for audits which are necessary to ensure the equitable treatment of all producers and container sellers. Under the proposed amendments, the provisions of the act will be extended to any association representing producers of farm products. Producers will be consulted before any proposal for a funding scheme is implemented.

These amendments allow producer associations to generate revenue from their members to support the activities of their associations. The proposed revisions comply with ministry policies of reduced direct financial support to producer associations and encourages industry association self-sufficiency.

METROPOLITAN TORONTO CONVENTION CENTRE CORPORATION ACT

Hon. Mr. O'Neil moved first reading of Bill 141, An Act respecting Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre Corporation.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: This legislation proposes to confirm the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre as an agency of the crown and to clarify and formalize the provincial government's relationship with this facility. As a crown agency, this facility will continue to enhance Ontario's growing profile as a major tourism destination.

OTTAWA CONGRESS CENTRE ACT

LOI SUR LE CENTRE DES CONGRÈS D'OTTAWA

Hon. Mr. O'Neil moved first reading of Bill 142, An Act respecting Ottawa Congress Centre.

L'hon. M. O'Neil propose la première lecture du projet de loi 142, Loi concernant le Centre des congrès d'Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

Hon. Mr. O'Neil: This legislation proposes to confirm the Ottawa Congress Centre as an agency of the crown and to formalize the provincial government's relationship with this facility. As a crown agency, the Ottawa Congress Centre will also continue to enhance Ontario's growing profile as a major tourism destination.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Fulton moved second reading of Bill 98, An Act to amend the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have any opening comments?

Hon. Mr. Fulton: The comments were made at first reading. I understand other members, though, have some comments and one member of our side has something else to add.

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this bill, which I think is for the most part a bill that provides for a number of housekeeping items amending the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act. However, there are several concerns that I would like to express, most specifically in the area of some sections of the bill that might be viewed as threatening by municipalities in terms of some additional powers which the minister is taking in terms of controlling road development, within towns, villages and townships in particular, in the province.

The road planners in those communities might question what the minister's more specific intentions are in terms of changes, in particular to subsection 90 of the original act. I would like to know from the minister whether his intention is to interfere at all with local planning, and in cases where the minister is requiring potentially additional expenditures in order to upgrade roads in the province, whether the minister will be providing the funds to do that.

The powers to provide additional funding for road improvements are there, but we would like to know, in terms of the regulations that are going to come with this legislation, how the minister will be intending to act and whether in fact municipalities will be bearing the costs of an additional burden being imposed on them.

1520

I would also express some concerns, which my colleague is going to go into to a greater extent,

in terms of restrictions of practices along the King's highway within a distance of 45 metres or about 150 feet of any of the King's highways. There are restrictions on a number of activities by businesses or individuals, particularly farms, along the King's highway in terms of selling goods or produce and there would appear to be some additional restrictions being put in place, or at least the minister has the power to provide those restrictions. I have some concerns about whether there are going to be grandfathering provisions and what kinds of regulations we will have in place to provide the permits that are provided for under this act to allow activities to go on along the highways of the province.

The minister is expanding his powers as well in terms of, it would appear, towns in southern Ontario where he did not previously have powers as strong under the old legislation.

I would just hope we will get some assurances from the minister on those points.

Other than that, I think, in principle, we can support this bill. We would just like to hear some assurances from the minister on the points I have raised today.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): Would any honourable member wish to comment upon the remarks made by the member for Sault Ste. Marie?

Mr. Philip: The member for Sault Ste. Marie raised the issue, I think more specifically, of subsections 6(2) and 6(3). I guess the concern I would have is, why is it that it appears the minister has not consulted the Ontario Federation of Agriculture on this? When we called their research department yesterday, they were not aware of this bill or any of its implications. Why would he not consult with this body that might have an opinion on the bill? Has it been a safety problem that he needs to enforce this? If so, what substantiation can he provide that shows this is necessary?

All of us are in favour of safety, and I think if the minister can document that this is a problem I guess one has to be supportive of it. The key word is "may." It gives a discretion, and we recognize then that because of this discretion, it need not necessarily apply in all or even a majority or even very many cases.

I would like to know, as my colleague had raised the issue, exactly when does the minister anticipate or in what types of instances does he anticipate that these two sections will apply? Are there any regulations that are in the process of being drafted that he would like to share with us that will give us some assurance this section will

not be used in a capricious way to in any way interfere with farmers who may want to sell their products from roadside stands? Many of us, even city dwellers like ourselves, enjoy purchasing fresh food and produce from these farmers along the highways.

Mr. McCague: Most of this bill is welcome and is of a housekeeping nature. I, too, have the concern that has been mentioned by the two New Democratic Party members who have spoken about the roadside sales and I understand that the minister may be saying something about that a little later on or maybe not. I hope he does or else we might convince him that we should have a little discussion in committee of the whole.

Hon. Mr. Conway: George, you're getting cantankerous in your old age.

Mr. McCague: Yes. As one gets older that is what happens, but the House leader has caused most of it.

However, I would just like the minister to comment on the request to increase the size of the road committees up to 10. I do not know where that originated. I would like to know.

On the business of counties having the legislative authority to approve or to regulate construction and alteration of entrances, I thought that the county and the townships had that function now. The operative words may be "legislative authority." I am not sure about that. I would like the minister to comment on that.

With respect to the development of roads in southern Ontario, it is welcomed that at least the minister will have the authority to fund those. I guess the big question will be whether he has any money to fund those. However, we will hear about that a little later.

The bill does allow for the ministry to provide funds for the improvement and upgrading of rail and intercity bus terminals. That also is welcome. It is nice to have it there. It will be really great if the minister has some money for it.

I would be content to proceed with this bill without committee of the whole if the minister is prepared to answer those questions and to offer the explanation for the authority to stop roadside sales. To a lot of people that is a very important part of farm income. Many of them have existed for many years. I know it is very difficult to get a new entrance for a roadside stand.

I would hope that at the very least the minister would see fit to honour existing arrangements that his staff out there has with the local farmers and not interrupt that at all. I can understand his reluctance to approve others, that is his reluctance

to approve entrances in many cases, as we all know.

The Acting Speaker: Would any honourable member wish to comment upon the remarks made by the honourable member for Simcoe West? If not, would any other honourable member wish to participate?

Mr. Reyecraft: I want to take just a minute or two to speak in support of Bill 98. As has already been indicated, many of the sections in this bill are of a housekeeping nature but there is one in particular that certainly will be welcomed by a number of municipalities. I refer to section 4 of the bill.

I think all members will recognize the fact that counties and other governments need to control and regulate accesses onto the roads in order to protect the traffic carrying capacity of those roads. It has been assumed by most municipalities that for some time municipalities could do that using their authority under either the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act or else under the Planning Act.

However, I want to draw to the attention of members that a decision of the Divisional Court of the Supreme Court of Ontario not too long ago, on April 11, 1988, changed those circumstances somewhat. The Supreme Court ruled that the road committee of Middlesex county had no jurisdiction to control accesses in that way.

There certainly is a concern in Middlesex, and in other municipalities as well, that this may lead to a loss of the existing traffic carrying capacities of their roads. But the court ruled that they did not have the jurisdiction to control accesses unless they had been declared controlled-access roads under section 96 of the Public Transportation and Highway Improvement Act.

I know I have heard often over the last several weeks from Middlesex county engineer Don Husson and warden Richard Bolton about their concern about this decision and the apparent loss of authority of the counties and their road committees, and subsequently, also suburban road commissions across the province.

1530

Perhaps this addresses somewhat the concern that was raised by the member for Simcoe West (Mr. McCague) in his remarks to explain why there is a need to amend clause 31(1)(b) of the existing act to clearly give counties that kind of authority. I certainly support the bill and in particular support section 4 of it and that amendment.

Hon. Mr. Fulton: With reference to the issue raised by my friend the member for Sault Ste.

Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom), section 90 really deals with the development road program that currently exists in northern Ontario and that currently does not exist in southern Ontario. It is simply making that change apply across southern Ontario. The rate of funding, of subsidy, is upwards of 100 per cent, so the rules will not change for the north. The rules for the south will be the same as for the north.

With respect to the other matter raised by both the member for Sault Ste. Marie and the member for Simcoe West, the issue of the right-of-way or off-the-right-of-way sales of farm products, etc., it is not our intention whatever to prohibit or eliminate those that are within the guidelines of 45 metres. If it is not a site-specific safety problem, they will not be changed. The only requirement will be that if they are on the road allowance, they simply will be controlled to the extent of requiring a permit.

There has been some concern expressed by the Ontario Provincial Police. It is not our intention, I can assure the member, to eliminate those roadside sales, but from time to time there have been certain structures located just too close for public safety. We want to be able to regulate those, but we certainly are not going to be putting these folks out of business.

With respect to the member for Etobicoke-Rexdale (Mr. Philip), again the site selection or site-specific problem existed, as I explained earlier. There have been very few occasions—I can think of only two in the last three years—that have been brought to my attention. In each case, an accommodation was reached. As I said earlier, it is not our intention to interfere with that free market, with the roadside stands we all visit, and probably many of us did this past long weekend.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND ACT (continued)

LOI SUR LE FONDS PATRIMONIAL DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO (suite)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 116, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

Suite du débat ajourné sur la motion de deuxième lecture du projet de loi 116, Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

The Acting Speaker (Miss Roberts): It is my understanding the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) adjourned this debate. Is there any other member who wishes to participate in the debate?

Mr. Morin-Strom: I am pleased to address this bill, which is the culmination of a lot of work by our party, a culmination in terms of what the Liberals want to present in terms of their approach to a heritage fund. I wish that it would have been us who had the opportunity to actually present this bill, because there are some serious deficiencies with the implementation as proposed by this current Liberal government.

The need for a northern Ontario heritage fund has been well established and has been strongly advocated by northerners for many years. Our party has supported this concept and promoted it across northern Ontario for well over a decade now.

In 1986, we finally got the will of the Legislature to support the resolution of my former colleague, Jim Foulds, a former member for Port Arthur, which supported the concept of the establishment of a northern Ontario heritage fund in the province. We were pleased at that point to get support by members from all three parties for that concept. Unfortunately, the government refused to act at that point in the implementation of such a fund. The first action or commitment by the province was in the budget, not the budget this year but the budget last year, 1987, at which time the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon) hailed the northern Ontario heritage fund as a great initiative of his government and committed the province to put \$30 million into that fund.

Unfortunately, this announcement by the Treasurer was never acted upon by the government and the government never took the steps necessary to see that fund established during the past year, so this year, 1988, in the budget the Treasurer presented last month, we have heard now about heritage fund 2, the second commitment of \$30 million to a northern Ontario heritage fund. We have seen none of the funds from that first commitment. We obviously have concerns this time about the budget commitment being a hollow promise and about what we are actually going to see in terms of development in the north as a result of this fund.

By far the biggest efficiency in the proposed program from this government is the lack of funds in this fund. Its commitment of \$30 million will go a very, very small way towards assisting northern Ontario. If it had been realistic, if it had

been sincere in its commitment to northern Ontario, it would have taken the example of the Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund and looked at the kind of commitment required to establish a real capital fund that can be of assistance to a region.

If one takes just the startup funding of the Alberta heritage fund, one would see that the equivalent, even translating northern Ontario into population terms in comparison with Alberta—it is certainly smaller—the Alberta fund was on the order of \$1.5 billion to start and that would translate for northern Ontario to a startup fund of about \$500 million. That is the kind of commitment that would have come forward from a government that truly did care about the north and that was going to really put in place a program and a capital fund that would reflect the revenues that come out of the north and the needs of northern Ontario.

That \$30 million is going to do very little. When one compares that commitment with the kinds of commitments this government has had towards job creation initiatives, major developments, single plants in southern Ontario, one sees how little one actually can buy for \$30 million. Really, this government has a double standard for the north in comparison with what it will do in the south.

The Premier (Mr. Peterson) offered a single company, Toyota, \$35 million in low-interest loans and a \$15-million training grant to have it locate an assembly plant in southern Ontario, nearly double the commitment this government is willing to give to all of northern Ontario. That is for a single plant in a single community in southern Ontario.

Less than a month ago, the Premier made another new commitment to a Goodyear tire plant going into eastern Ontario. That commitment was for \$36 million, again greater than the total commitment to northern Ontario, for a single project that will provide 900 jobs in eastern Ontario; 900 jobs at a price of \$36 million.

1540

I have no argument with that initiative in that community, but how many jobs are we going to be able to buy with a commitment of \$30 million in northern Ontario? We have tens of thousands of workers in northern Ontario who are unemployed. This fund will provide the moneys to do a very, very small part of what the needs are in that region.

This government is in a time at which revenues are at a very strong point in terms of the economic

health and the fiscal position of the province. This is a time, if there ever was one, when this government could have made a very serious commitment to recognizing the imbalances in the economic health of the north versus the south, transferring part of the economic wealth of the south by returning some of the economic wealth that is generated by the resources that come out of the north back to the north. That could have been done at this time when we are near the top point of the business cycle. We could have seen a government make a serious commitment on the order of what Alberta did, something on the order of a \$500-million fund.

We do not need small amounts coming into the north which potentially will be squandered away rather than going into a solid fund that will be there for years to come and that will invest in the north, provide capital and be reinvested, providing income back into the fund.

At the same time we are hearing the government's commitment to this heritage fund, we are seeing cutbacks in the government's funding to programs such as the Northern Ontario Development Corp. and the northern Ontario regional development program in northern Ontario. We need a government that will look to the future of the north, not steal funds from one program to reallocate to a new initiative of a new government while it phases out the initiatives of previous governments.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) last week suggested that the fund may well be used for topping up programs for other ministries. This is a very serious concern of northerners. It is essential that we have the full commitment of all ministries to their responsibilities in northern Ontario. This fund cannot be seen to be a slush fund, a fund to provide extra help for ministries that will not put forward the funds needed in their own areas of responsibility.

I ask the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) to go back to his cabinet, to rethink this proposal and to fight for a fund that really will provide the economic initiatives we need across the north.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I request all honourable members to pay as much attention as they can to the member for Sault Ste. Marie, who is completing his speech with respect to Bill 116.

Mr. Morin-Strom: At this point, I would like to conclude by asking this government to demonstrate its commitment to and its faith in the future of northern Ontario by reconsidering this legislation and acting to institute a real northern Ontario heritage fund.

The Acting Speaker: Would any honourable member wish to comment upon remarks made by the member for Sault Ste. Marie? If not, would any other honourable member wish to participate in the debate? The member for Algoma-Manitoulin. Just one moment, please. Has the honourable member already spoken in this debate?

Mr. Brown: No, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. Please go ahead, then.

Mr. Brown: I am pleased and proud to join in this important debate on the heritage fund. Last summer, as members will recall, the province was in the midst of an election campaign. As a Liberal candidate, I joined with my colleagues all across the province—not just in the north but across the whole province—in advocating, indeed promising, a fund for northern Ontario, a fund that would be comprised of \$30 million, a fund that would be administered by northerners, a fund that would assist the north to find northern solutions to northern problems.

That was the promise in the summer of 1987; that was the election plank in the summer of 1987; that is what we said we would do; and that is what we are doing. This is just one more Liberal election promise kept.

The heritage fund is an important component of the government's thrust to assist the north to diversify, to more fully participate equally with all of Ontario. The heritage fund is just one of a substantial number of programs put in place to help northerners find their own solutions to their own problems. When combined with the myriad of initiatives by numerous ministries, the heritage fund must be seen as an important additional component of the government's commitment.

The heritage fund is a commitment to northern Ontario of \$360 million, \$30 million a year every year for the next 12 years. The fund will be operated from a separate bank account apart from the provincial Treasury. This is important because it will give the fund stability. It will allow the directors to use their resources with a view to the long term.

The fund will not make decisions on the basis of an artificial deadline of the provincial fiscal year. If the board decides to fund projects over a number of years, it will have the needed flexibility. If the board needs time to consider priorities, it need not be stampeded into spending by the infamous March 31 deadline just because it might lose the allocation. I suggest this unique feature will allow for an intelligent and coherent long-term development strategy.

The mandate of the fund is broad. The mandate is to provide assistance to single-industry communities experiencing economic disruption from layoffs or shutdowns; to assist with the development of new technology, especially in the resource sector; to help small businesses to get started or to expand their operations; and to support special projects that promote the long-term growth and diversification of the northern economy.

This broad mandate is a definite plus. It will allow the board of northerners who will administer the fund to invest the fund in a way northerners decide, to meet the needs of northerners as defined by northerners. It is a cornerstone of a government policy that believes the problems of the north are best addressed by northerners, a government that believes the best solutions are homemade solutions, a government that believes the north's problems will not be solved by Queen's Park solutions. I, unlike the opposition, trust northerners to build northern Ontario.

In listening to the debate on this issue, I have heard numerous recitations of the north's problems and concerns. I share these concerns. We have an economy in the north that is too tied to the booms and busts of the resource sector. We have a society experiencing a net outflow of population. We have a society that does not have sufficient job opportunities for our youth.

Yet this is not a problem anyone or any group will solve with any one solution. It is a problem to which megasolutions do not apply. It is a problem that will be solved by thousands of solutions. The problem will not be solved by government, any government, but will be solved by the people of the north with the co-operation and assistance of the government.

We in the north are turning the corner. Unemployment, while still a problem, is at its lowest level in many years. Our mining sector is expanding rapidly. The forest products industry will invest nearly \$750 million in the next few short years to increase our competitiveness.

The province is moving 1,600 positions in the civil service north to help in our diversification. These moves mean an annual payroll of \$48 million and the construction of new buildings totalling \$200 million. This relocation program also has the benefit that now civil servants will see the world the way northerners see the world. This will bring the government closer to the people and closer to the concerns and needs of our people.

1550

I know that much needs to be done to develop and diversify the north, but I, like most northerners, know there exist no magic solutions, no wand-waving, no Disneyland solutions. I believe that we in the north are turning the corner. We in the north are being given the tools and assistance by this government to find our own solutions. I therefore would urge all members, especially all northern members, to support this important initiative.

Mr. Pouliot: I was a little distressed, although I do welcome the comments from our good friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin about comments such as, "Unlike members of the opposition, we on this side of the House trust northerners." I do not think there is any foundation for that; certainly we do not deserve that kind of off-the-cuff comment, with the highest of respect, because no one has a monopoly on caring for others, on having a social conscience when it comes time to articulate the problems that are too well known up north.

I, for one, have mentioned several times in this House that when it comes to the legitimate grievances and the legitimate aspirations of the people of the north, we could indeed come as close as possible to crossing party lines in terms of individual lobbying to our colleagues to ensure that the north could at last become part of the economic mainstream of Ontario.

I would like to remind the member that perhaps he was right last week when he talked about the topping off of the northern heritage fund. Candidly, I am very much in favour of what is being done in terms of the northern heritage fund. Our party will be opposing the fund for one reason and one reason only, not for its rationale, not for its intent or spirit, but solely because we feel it is really not enough of an injection; \$30 million is not that much money.

The government could make us change our mind or make us appreciate the fund more by making restitution, namely, of the \$30 million that was committed in 1987; \$30 million was not spent, and \$60 million would go a longer way to helping us solve the problem.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think what is happening here today is a very important event as relates to the will of this government to share the concerns we have about bringing northern Ontario as a full partner into all the good things that happen in this buoyant economy we have.

I think as significant as the bill is, maybe more significant is the individual who is placing the bill, the member for Cochrane North (Mr.

Fontaine). I feel that since I have been here, I have never seen anyone so committed to northern Ontario as this honourable gentleman. I say with the greatest respect that it is somewhat disappointing—

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Keep a straight face, Vince.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: This is quite a serious conversation. I do not think the member should make jokes. I do from time to time when it is appropriate, but I do not think it is appropriate right now. I think the member should just keep quiet—I only have two minutes—and listen for a minute and then yap it up after.

Mr. D. S. Cooke: Look who's talking. You used to sit over here and never shut up.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I accept that.

I think the fact is that the gentleman who is carrying the bill, who has such a deep-rooted feeling about what northern Ontario is about and who is totally committed, is starting off in a direction after the initiatives this government has already taken in that direction to do the kind of things for which northern Ontario has waited for some time, maybe 40 years or so.

I have to say that with the kind of commitment the government has, with the kind of the minister who is putting forward this bill, I am very optimistic that we should get over some of the minor hurdles we talk about as relate to the kind of commitment, because I think the commitment has been made. As we expand on it, in my ministry as well, in the Ministry of Natural Resources, I feel that we are doing things that are going to augur well for the people in northern Ontario.

Mr. Morin-Strom: When we talk about commitment, we have to question what the commitment is when the government puts less than one tenth of one per cent of the budget of the province into northern Ontario. We have got at least eight per cent of the population of the province. The government is putting less than one tenth of one per cent of the budget of the province into this program. That is what the government's commitment is, that is the commitment this particular member is supporting from this government. I would think if he were fighting for northern Ontario he would be advocating a real fund that would do real things for the people in the north.

This member suggests that this program, this legislation, this heritage fund, is going to be the cornerstone of the Liberal program for northern Ontario. I would suggest in fact that in the long run, when the people of this province and the

people of northern Ontario see what this fund is going to buy for them and what it is going to do in terms of economic development, it will not be the cornerstone of the program; it will be the tombstone of the Liberal Party in northern Ontario.

Mr. Harris: I want to make a few comments and suggest in the two minutes available to the member for Algoma-Manitoulin that he may wish to respond and rethink his position. I also want to comment that the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio) interjected with two things. One, he talked about the commitment of the Minister of Northern Development to the north. I share that. I too think that the Minister of Northern Development is committed to northern Ontario and is fighting for it.

The disgrace is that he is not very good at it. The second disgrace is that his cabinet colleagues do not listen to him and the third disgrace is the result that we have seen in this Legislature and outside this Legislature since he has been there, and what has happened in northern Ontario.

But listen, nobody runs for office in northern Ontario unless they are committed to the north. What we are doing is measuring whether (a) the individual is successful and (b) whether his cabinet colleagues are listening to him or not. In this case they obviously are not.

I wonder if the member for Algoma-Manitoulin is not a little embarrassed by his government's commitment to northern Ontario. It is OK to say, "Look, I agree with the thrust of the legislation but there is not enough money in it to be meaningful." It is OK to say, "Look, I agree with this particular legislation," and take a little poke at the Minister of Natural Resources, who dared to stand up today in this House and say that his ministry was contributing to the people in northern Ontario.

He should be embarrassed. Trappers are now going to take this ministry to court. They are looking at court action over unilateral decisions that have been taken—and quite frankly they have been taken, I guess, by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bradley)—but the member and the ministry officials—

The Acting Speaker: Order. As my friend is well aware, his comments are to relate to the comments made by the major speaker.

Mr. Harris: I want to say to the Minister of Natural Resources while we are dealing with this that I am embarrassed with our parks policy. I am embarrassed with the banning on trapping. I am embarrassed with the banning on hunting. Surely in the two minutes available to the member for

Algoma-Manitoulin, he will want to get up and do that.

Mr. Brown: I think I should remind the members what legislation is in front of us and what it will do and what they would be voting against. Just to summarize the key points of this legislation: it is a long-term commitment by this government to the north funded at \$30 million for 12 years. It is \$360 million. It will be administered by a board made up of a cross-section of northerners.

My friend the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) mentioned that I did not think we were all working together. That is true. I did not believe that. I heard some things on his side of the House last week that criticized the fact that there was a board of northerners which was going to make the decision over how that money was spent. I think that it is very appropriate that northerners decide how that money will be spent.

I think it is also important that the corporation will keep its funds in its own account separate from the province. This is unique. I think this is another statement of the government's commitment to the north, and I think it is unique that the funds will be invested if they are not used, so that the long-term commitment is really there. This is an unusual but great program for northern Ontario people, and I am proud to support it.

1600

Mr. Eves: It is my pleasure to rise and be able to participate in this debate this afternoon. I want to assure all members that I will not be long.

I sometimes wonder whether I should be participating in this debate, with respect to some ministries in Ontario, whether or not the entire riding of Parry Sound is in northern Ontario, but I have been assured from time to time by the Minister of Northern Development, the member for Cochrane North, and I must say that I treat his assurances and the sincerity with which they are given with respect.

I too think the member for Cochrane North does have the best interests of northern Ontario and the people in northern Ontario at heart. But I would have to reiterate some of the comments made by my colleague the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) in that I do not think the Minister of Northern Development gets the co-operation or the support in cabinet that I think he deserves and that I think the people of northern Ontario deserve.

It is fine to say, I suppose, that we are setting up a northern heritage fund of \$360 million. In fact we were setting up a heritage fund of \$360 million today and that money was invested or set

aside for the northern heritage fund today, then I think I might take a somewhat different approach than I and my colleagues perhaps will be taking in the Legislature today in the upcoming vote.

I might say at the outset that my position is that I will be supporting the legislation on second reading, although I do think that there are some areas in which it is lacking. I think that the financial aspect is the first and foremost area it is lacking in.

When we think of heritage funds, we think, for example, of the Alberta heritage savings trust fund, where the government of that province literally put hundreds of millions and billions of dollars in a very short space of time into a heritage fund to plan for tomorrow.

The people in northern Ontario need to diversify their economy. Many single-industry communities, as I am sure a lot of members of the Legislature are aware, especially those from northern Ontario know how dependent small communities become on one particular industry or source of revenue. I would think that the first and foremost thing in any northern heritage fund would be to allow for that economic diversification and allow for these communities to stand on their own two feet and be able to contribute over time to the rest of Ontario and to the economy of Ontario.

I really do not think the answer is putting in \$30 million a year, a commitment that was made well over a year ago and still not delivered on with respect to the first installment of \$30 million. We are already without \$30 million for the first year in northern Ontario and now we really are not talking about a \$360-million fund. If you take the value of the dollar today and flat-line it at \$30 million per year over the next 12 years, I venture to say that by the time you get to the year 2000, that \$30 million per year is going to be worth about, roughly, I believe the member for Sudbury East (Miss Martel) used the figure last week, about \$16 million per year in today's dollars. I would venture to say that is indeed correct.

The government's commitment to the northern Ontario heritage fund is that it will put half as much money in 12 years from now as it is putting in today. I do not really consider that to be much of a commitment at all in terms of dollars and cents.

With respect to the commitment that had been made by the government and the indication that had been made over a year ago—I have referred to this on other occasions—look at the 93rd question in the First Session of the 34th Parliament, which

my colleague the member for Nipissing made of the Minister of Northern Development, asking him to indicate the cost incurred in establishing the northern Ontario heritage fund which was announced in the April 1987 throne speech, a list of all projects approved for funding under the fund, the amounts of each project and the administration costs to date of this program. The date of that question was February 9, 1988.

The response, which was a very forthright and honest one from the minister, read as follows: "No identifiable costs have been incurred since the development work for the fund is being carried out within the regular public service. No projects have been approved for funding as yet. No identifiable administrative costs have been incurred." What he is telling us is that we have not spent a cent on a fund that we promised over a year ago. That was the answer to the question.

The provincial government, I would expect, would probably do more in terms of dollars and cents for northern Ontario than the federal government would do. I think everybody knows—especially we who spend a lot of time in constituency offices, whatever constituency we represent—that provincial members of the Legislature are far busier and have far more direct contact on a daily basis with their constituents than do our federal counterparts. I suppose it is because the areas that the provincial government has jurisdiction and responsibility over have touched the individual lives of constituents every day a lot more than areas of the federal government. But we have the federal government contributing \$55 million over five years to an economic development program for northern Ontario.

I might point out that the representatives who determine how that fund is spent are from each of the 11 federal electoral districts north of and including Parry Sound and Nipissing. I would like to just slip that in there. I know I do not have to do it for the benefit of the Minister of Northern Development, but I am doing it for the benefit of the Premier and the Minister of Northern Development's associates in cabinet so they will be well aware of what the federal government thinks the dividing line between north and south Ontario is.

If members go back to last year's budget and go down the list of election promises that were made by the Liberal Party or people running for that party in the election, there are several very startling figures to date. If some northerners take the announcement of this fund with a grain of salt, to put things in perspective perhaps, some

members will understand why that is being received the way it is being received.

The northern development fund, which committed \$40 million to be spent over two years, spent \$17 million to date. The northern development fund was touted by Liberal candidates as the main means the government would use to increase economic renewal and diversification in the north. Initially promising to spend \$20 million per year for these purposes, they are grossly behind in their goal.

Small business development corporations for northern and eastern Ontario, which promised \$9 million for the year 1986-87, spent \$6.6 million.

Community economic transformation agreements, or CETAs as we commonly refer to them, which promised \$10 million for 1986-87, spent \$500,000—not even 10 per cent of what was promised.

The softwood lumber rebate from the federal government: \$30 million promised, absolutely nothing spent. I suppose this is the \$30 million we are now going to get back. That is extracted from northerners in northern Ontario to start with. We are going to get the \$30 million back now and it is going to be called the northern Ontario heritage fund.

Destinations North, December 1986: \$4 million promised; amount allocated and spent, \$2.6 million. Northern Ontario heritage fund: amount promised, \$30 million; we all know what was spent—nothing, absolutely nothing. Northern transportation program: amount allocated in 1985-86, \$120.2 million, and in 1986-87, \$104.5 million; the money we lost to the north under those promises was \$15.7 million.

In last year's budget we heard a lot of allusions to extra money for northern highway and road systems. I believe the figures were \$26 million last year and something like \$12 million extra money this year. For those members from southern Ontario who are not aware, to build a new highway in northern Ontario, even the Parry Sound part of northern Ontario, costs \$2 million per mile, so \$26 million will build exactly 13 miles of road. Does anybody out there have any idea or concept as to how big northern Ontario is geographically?

The generous donation with which the Treasurer topped up the road budget with this year will build exactly six miles of highway in northern Ontario. My riding is about 250 miles wide and 100 miles in depth. We will have no problem taking the entire budget for northern Ontario that is granted, the whole \$12 million, and we can spend that very close to Parry Sound.

What are the other 15 ridings going to do? That will not even begin to satisfy the needs of my constituency.

1610

If you put these things in their proper perspective, you begin to see how very little the commitment of most of the cabinet colleagues of the member for Cochrane North is to northern Ontario. This government has really missed an inroad, in two successive budgets now, to do something for the people of northern Ontario.

Going back to the 1985 Liberal campaign, we were promised tax credits for northern Ontario residents. Absolutely nothing has been done on that promise in three years. So much for campaign promises.

The budget—either budget—has done absolutely nothing to lower gasoline prices in northern Ontario, as well as Ontario Hydro rates in northern Ontario, even though a private member's resolution calling for the lowering of northern Ontario Hydro rates was unanimously passed by all parties of this Legislature, including the Liberal members. How soon they forget. I guess that with 94 seats they can do whatever they want to do. They do not have to deliver on the promises they made. They will just make some more before the next election.

It was very interesting to note with respect to that particular debate and that resolution, that when that resolution came to a voice vote some government members voted against it, but when a recorded vote was asked for these same members either apparently changed their minds or disappeared from the chamber altogether.

I want to put in perspective also the \$30 million per year we are talking about in the northern heritage fund. Last year, this government had an amount of surplus revenue, admitted to by the Treasurer, of \$1.3 billion. Let's take the commitment of this government to northern Ontario. We are going to take \$30 million, which sounds like a lot of money by itself, \$30 million out of a surplus revenue amount of \$1.3 billion that the Treasurer had. We are going to place it in its proper context. Do members know what that comes to? Here is the government's commitment to northern Ontario: that is 0.023 per cent of the government's revenue surplus given to the northern Ontario heritage fund. That is what this government thinks of northern Ontarians.

I ask the member for Algoma-Manitoulin to go back to his constituents and try to explain to them how this government is so committed to northern Ontario: "You are worth 0.023 per cent of our government's surplus last year. That is what we

think of you in northern Ontario. Here is our commitment to northern Ontario." I do not think the member is going to get re-elected if he uses that line.

I would be very remiss if I did not get in at least a few comments about whether or not Parry Sound should be in northern Ontario. Perhaps we are not even going to get to participate in this fund. Who knows? As far as the Minister of Health (Mrs. Caplan) is concerned, we do not get to participate in any programs her ministry has. We do not qualify for northern health travel grants. We do not even qualify for highway programs and extra money that are given to northern Ontario because the Ministry of Transportation insists on recognizing Parry Sound district as part of southern Ontario. We do not get to qualify for any extra education money that may come along because the Minister of Education (Mr. Ward) refuses to recognize the district of Parry Sound as being part of northern Ontario.

We have seen in two successive years, almost exactly a year apart, resolutions of this Legislature that I introduced as the member for Parry Sound pass unanimously, and I mean by each and every single member of the Legislature present for the vote. Every single member of the Legislature present for both of those resolutions a year apart thinks the Parry Sound district should be part of northern Ontario for the purposes of all government ministries.

Yet we still have no action. We have assurances and reassurances from the Minister of Northern Development. As I said at the outset, I have no doubt at all about the sincerity of the Minister of Northern Development and his commitment to get Parry Sound into northern Ontario, but I must say I do have some doubt, quite frankly, about the sincerity of the Premier who had indicated to me in estimates over a year ago in February that he would go back and pursue his cabinet colleagues with renewed vigour to see if he could convince them to include Parry Sound in northern Ontario.

If the Premier of Ontario, who appoints every one of his cabinet colleagues to cabinet, does not have the clout to convince them that every one of their ministries should recognize Parry Sound as part of northern Ontario, then I have to seriously question the ability or the amount of clout that the Premier indeed has. There is surely no way, if the Premier walked into a cabinet meeting and said, "This is going to happen," that there would be any cabinet minister who would not deliver on that commitment.

I think that is all it takes. I think it is just as simple as that. I think the whole issue can be resolved in five minutes. Perhaps they are going to wait for the next provincial election campaign to see if they can hold the issue on the back burner for another four years. It did not work very well in the last two; I do not know why they might think it would work any better in the next one.

On June 25, 1987, the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Ramsay)—at that time he was parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines—in response to my private member's resolution debate said: "It is actually up to the cabinet. I would like to assure the member for Parry Sound that this has the highest priority before cabinet right now."

The date again was June 25, 1987.

Mr. Harris: Who said that?

Mr. Eves: The member for Timiskaming. He was then parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

"I would like to assure the member for Parry Sound that this has the highest priority before cabinet right now, because of the Premier's interest in the topic.

"As the member will remember, it was the member for Parry Sound who brought this up in estimates. We are giving it active consideration."

That is so typical of this government in its response to a lot of things. It reviews things. It studies things. It has committees to review the review this committee has already reviewed, and it puts things on the back burner.

They talk about their commissions and royal investigations into different matters that any government, I suppose, uses from time to time as a delaying tactic to not deal with an issue it does not want to deal with. I can tell members that this government in about three short years, on a per matter basis, probably far supersedes anything that has ever been done by any provincial or federal government in the history of Canada.

Members should look at all the reviews the Ministry of Health has going on right now, for example. It is absolutely ludicrous. We are wasting millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money to review things three, four and five times because we have individuals or a government over there that does not have enough commitment or enough intestinal fortitude to stand up and actually do something. It should make a decision. It should make an educated decision, if it can, but let's do something to try to alleviate the problems. Here, we are talking about the problems of northern Ontario.

As I said at the outset, I am convinced of the minister's sincerity with respect to the problem, but I really have to question the support he is getting from his cabinet colleagues and the Premier. If he were to rise in the House this afternoon and say that he was initially, today, putting \$360 million into the fund, that might be a heritage fund worth talking about. That might be a heritage fund that actually would have some impact on the economy and the lives of people who live in northern Ontario.

But to flat-line \$30 million a year that was promised over 13 months ago, not a dime of which has yet been delivered, when we all know that by the year 2000, \$30 million is going to be worth only \$15 million or \$16 million a year, I do not think is much of a commitment.

I am going to support the fund. I certainly do not support the manner in which it has been introduced, I do not support the delay that has taken place in implementing it and I do not support the amount of financial commitment this government is making to northern Ontario.

Mr. Harris: I would like to ask the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) a couple of questions.

He mentioned in his remarks that the Premier said a year ago—I cannot quote; I do not remember the exact words, so let me paraphrase—the Premier said and committed that he would do what he could to convince his cabinet colleagues. The Premier said that.

I guess I would ask the member for Parry Sound, given that this is what the Premier said over a year ago and given that nothing has happened, does the member for Parry Sound think the Premier was telling the truth when he said that was what he was going to do? I would ask the member for Parry Sound, in view of all the evidence before us, does he think the Premier actually did what he said he was going to do, or, as the evidence would suggest, that the Premier said one thing a year ago and then he did not do it?

1620

There are only two choices. I would ask the member for Parry Sound if he thinks, one, did the Premier tell the truth, or two, after he said that publicly, he really did not plan to do it at all and he did not do it, or did the Premier say one thing publicly and then privately change his mind and not do it?

Since the member for Timiskaming said it had the highest priority before cabinet—he said that on the record—in view of the fact that cabinet did nothing about it, I wonder if the member for

Parry Sound would think the member for Timiskaming was telling the truth. Does he in fact think it had the highest priority before cabinet, in view of the fact he made those statements and in view of the fact nothing has happened, or does the member for Parry Sound think that perhaps they have been playing fast and loose with the truth over there in their comments about Parry Sound coming into northern Ontario?

Mr. Eves: Briefly, in response to the member for—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Ernie, go and sit on his lap while you answer the question.

Mr. Harris: Just answer the question; yes or no.

Mr. Eves: I think, with respect to the statements both the Premier and the member for Timiskaming made at the time, that I assumed they were very genuine, honest and truthful statements. With respect to the results we have seen to date, they would seem to indicate that was not necessarily the case, but I would not go so far ever as to accuse anybody of not being sincere or honest or forthright in his statements. I just wish the proof of the pudding was there and the results were here and the commitment was delivered upon. I look forward to the day when it is.

Mr. Speaker: Are there any other members wishing to participate in the debate? If not, the minister may wish to make some final comment.

L'hon. M. Fontaine: J'aimerais aujourd'hui débiter mon allocution en répondant à certaines questions, soulevées par mes collègues, concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario. Mais, avant tout, je veux réitérer, pour le bénéfice des membres, les points majeurs qui constituent ce fonds.

Mon gouvernement a octroyé la somme de 30 millions de dollars par année pour une période de douze ans. Aucun gouvernement antérieur, en Ontario, n'avait consacré une telle somme d'argent au développement à long terme du Nord de l'Ontario, mais plus particulièrement, par les gens du Nord de l'Ontario.

Au cours du présent débat, j'ai entendu, à maintes reprises, mes collègues dire, que l'introduction de ce projet de loi, représentait une triste journée pour les gens du Nord de l'Ontario parce que, tout simplement, 30 millions de dollars ne sont pas assez.

Je me dois aujourd'hui, ainsi qu'aux gens du Nord de l'Ontario, de clarifier cette remarque. Depuis l'annonce de ce projet, j'ai voyagé dans l'ensemble du Nord, et je peux vous assurer,

Monsieur le Président, que les gens du Nord ont accueilli très positivement cette initiative de mon gouvernement. C'est avec beaucoup d'orgueil que je reflète les positions de mes contribuables dans cette Chambre et je trouve surprenant qu'au sein de cette même Chambre, certains des élus soient incapables d'en faire de même.

Au cours de mes voyages, j'ai constaté que les gens du Nord de l'Ontario avaient immédiatement compris qu'il s'agissait de nouveaux argents et que ce fonds était un atout précieux aux nombreux programmes déjà en place pour le Nord de l'Ontario.

I would like to begin my closing remarks by first addressing some of the questions raised with respect to the northern Ontario heritage fund. Let me reiterate the main points of the northern Ontario heritage fund.

First, the government has committed \$30 million a year over 12 years to the fund. No previous government in Ontario has made this kind of commitment to the long-term development of northern Ontario by northerners. In the course of this debate, I have heard my colleagues say many times that the introduction of this bill represents a sad day for the people of northern Ontario because the commitment of \$360 million is just not enough. I would like to set the record straight.

Since the fund was announced, I have been travelling through northern Ontario and I can assure members that the response I have been getting to the northern Ontario heritage fund is more than positive. I take great pride in representing the views of my constituents. It is indeed surprising when the elected representatives in this House are less able to understand the implications of the northern Ontario heritage fund than their constituents.

In my travels, I have seen at first hand that the people of northern Ontario are able to understand that this fund will not be used as a top-up fund, that this fund is clearly new money and that this fund is a valuable addition to the many programs already in place in northern Ontario.

The fund is going to be managed by northerners for northerners. This is a first and it reflects what northerners have been seeking from Queen's Park for years. With such a large commitment of public funds, it is in the interests of public accountability that the bill contain provisions to safeguard expenditures. In appropriate circumstances, cabinet could impose conditions on the use of the fund. I am sure members will agree that this is a wise measure

and proves that the government is a responsible one.

The bill does not impose constraints on the fund's purpose as determined by the board of directors. As we made clear from the start, the whole purpose in creating a separate board to administer the fund is to give northerners autonomy over its disbursement. I can understand the confusion some members in opposition may feel, so let me explain in simple terms what this means.

The fund will be administered by northerners, as opposed to civil servants. This is why the fund will exist in a separate corporation and why the fund money will be kept in its own bank account separate from the province's consolidated revenue fund.

We have proposed broad guidelines for the fund, as I indicated when I introduced the legislation on April 21. These guidelines reflect consultations we have had with northerners through the northern development councils and at the major economic development conferences in Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay. It will be the board's task to elaborate on these guidelines and decide specific uses for the fund.

At this point, I want to take a moment to address an apparent concern raised by the member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Morin-Strom) over the government's expenditure in his riding. He said we assigned \$30 million for Toyota, but I am going to show him a few figures of what was spent in his own riding that are more than what was given to Toyota.

He will be interested to know that in the past two years this government has made a commitment to public- and private-sector projects in Sault Ste. Marie totalling more than \$125 million. These include the construction of two new buildings to house the Ontario Lottery Corp. and the Ministry of Natural Resources, \$39 million; funding to the Algoma tour train—I guess he forgot that—\$7 million; a loan guarantee for St. Marys Paper, \$50 million; water and sewer assistance, \$1.3 million; a northern development fund grant to Searchmont ski hill, \$5 million; and a community economic transformation agreement grant of \$5 million.

I am sure during his election he used these to be re-elected. I am sure of that because I saw some advertising in the Sault. I guess people thought at the end that he had done all this, but he forgot to tell them that these were our programs too, because we put those in place during the last two years. I wonder where the member for Sault Ste. Marie has been for the last two years. Has he

not had a chance to visit with the constituents and witness for himself the considerable advancement this government has made in his riding?

The member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) has raised a tremendous fuss regarding the ministry budget increases in the administrative area. Let me explain those increases.

1630

To better serve the needs of our client group, the ministry is moving its head office to Sudbury. It is now in the process of designing and constructing a building and preparing staff for the move through counselling, French-language training and an orientation visit to Sudbury. That comes to \$3.8 million.

For many years the ministry relied on other ministries for most of its corporate services support. To facilitate the move to Sudbury, the ministry has created its own corporate services division, including a human resources branch, a legal services branch, French-language services, audit and other services, which come to \$3.1 million.

To better co-ordinate the ministry's delivery of services to northerners in numerous towns and cities all across the north, the ministry is installing a new computer network, at \$1.6 million.

The member for Cochrane South admitted to some difficulty in tracking the ministry's expenditures to the revised vote and item structure in our estimates. Let me simplify things for him by pointing out that the ministry budget increased from 1985-86 to 1988-89 for northern development, northern transportation and mines, from \$186.8 million to \$289.9 million, a 56.6 per cent increase. These figures do not include the increase of the ministry's administrative budget.

It strikes me as amazing that some members, once they have crossed the floor, seem to suffer from a severe case of selective memory. I want to repeat that to the member for Parry Sound. I was there when Mr. Bernier came, an hour before the announcement of the election in 1977, promising that the north would have a new ministry. But it is not me who forgot Parry Sound, not the Liberal Party and not the Minister of Northern Development at this time; it is Bill Davis and Bernier who forgot Parry Sound.

Since then, they had eight years to recover and they did not do it. Now the member comes here and tells us that we should do this and that. We are going to do it in time and on our own agenda, not his agenda. It is going to be done.

Mr. Eves: In eight years 10 ministries put us in northern Ontario; what have you done in three?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I am telling the member for Parry Sound that if he is in trouble, it is not my fault. He should go back to Mr. Bernier and Mr. Davis. Why did they not put Parry Sound in the north at that time in 1977? He should go ask that question of them.

I will not spend more time in commenting on what the Conservatives are saying, because I am not scared about what we are doing in the north. I came prepared. Any achievement they did—they could not even move two jobs, not two jobs, from this city to the north. They tried and they failed in cabinet. We have moved at least 1,600 to prove to them that we are serious.

I will not spend much time in commenting on the remarks of the member for Sudbury East because I truly sympathize with her. Given her inexperience, one can more easily forgive her tendency to isolate programs and therefore be unable to recognize the fact that the fund—and again I emphasize this for the benefit of those who cannot seem to understand—is in addition to the already significant programs in place for the economic development of the north.

At the beginning of my statement I said that I wanted to set the record straight in terms of the sad days which we sometimes witness in the House. Before I comment on the northern Ontario regional development program, I would like to quote my colleague the member for Nipissing:

"I am prepared to stand in this House in front of the people of Nipissing and say there are companies, folks, in my riding that have got grants that they do not need. They do not particularly want them. It is not the right word, but they would have expanded without them."

It is my belief that the recipients of Nordev grants are legitimate in their need for assistance and I would like to inform my colleague that I have asked for a sunset review of the Nordev program and will be more than happy to report to this House, specifically with regard to the statement of the member for Nipissing.

Some of the members have commented on the fact that the Nordev program will be placed under the northern heritage fund for the board to continue, change or cancel as it sees fit. If they see fit, this fund will be run by them, not by—now it is being administered by a civil servant, but if they accept the principle of that fund, it could be managed by them.

As I stated on April 21, the goals of the Nordev program closely reflect one of the major aims of the northern Ontario heritage fund: to provide incentive funding to create jobs and start or

expand small businesses in the north. For that reason, we consider it entirely appropriate that the board will manage the fund and be given an opportunity to conduct an independent review of the northern Ontario regional development program to determine whether it wants to continue the program, revise it or to do away with it altogether.

This government has consulted extensively with northerners through the Rosehart report. Out of the Rosehart report, we have already implemented 54 of their recommendations, 13 are being worked on and there are probably only going to be four that we will not implement.

There have been cabinet meetings in the north and many personal meetings I and my cabinet colleagues have had with northerners from all walks of life in virtually every community in the region. I can tell members that the Premier himself, if I recall it right, must have gone north 30 times in three years. Last weekend, when we visited the northwest, I think it was 35 times that ministers had visited the northwest since election time. Not only in the northwest; I am sure we did the same thing in the northeast if I do not forget the count.

Over and over again, we have heard the same desire expressed, the desire to see funds generated by the north returned to the north in an independent fund that gives northerners the resources they need to take more control of their own economic destiny. We have listened to northerners, heard what they want and we have delivered. I think all northerners will be disappointed if any member is so out of touch with his constituents as to not support this direct initiative.

Je suis fier de ce projet de loi puisqu'il est le résultat d'une consultation intensive auprès des gens du Nord de l'Ontario. Ce sera une bien triste journée en effet dans cette Chambre si mes collègues de l'opposition ne reconnaissent pas le bien fondé de cette démarche et décident de ne pas appuyer le gouvernement dans cette initiative. Merci.

1652

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Fontaine's motion for second reading of Bill 116, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Ballinger, Bossy, Bradley, Brandt, Brown, Callahan, Caplan, Carrothers, Collins, Conway, Cooke, D. R., Cordiano, Cousens, Cunningham, Curling, Daigeler, Dietsch, Elliot, Elston,

Epp, Eves, Faubert, Fleet, Fontaine, Furlong, Grandmaître;

Harris, Hart, Henderson, Hošek, Johnson, J. M., Kanter, Kerrio, Kozyra, McCague, McClelland, McGuigan, McLean, McLeod, Miclash, Miller, Morin, Nicholas, Nixon, R. F., Oddie Munro, Offer, Patten, Phillips, G., Pollock, Poole, Pope, Reycraft, Roberts, Runciman, Sola, Sorbara, South, Stoner, Sullivan, Ward, Wilson, Wong, Wrye.

Nays

Breaugh, Bryden, Cooke, D. S., Farnan, Grier, Johnston, R. F., Laughren, Martel, Morin-Strom, Philip, E., Pouliot, Rae, B., Reville, Wildman.

Ayes 63; nays 14.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

NORTHERN ONTARIO HERITAGE FUND

ACT LOI SUR LE FONDS PATRIMONIAL DU NORD DE L'ONTARIO

Consideration of Bill 116, An Act respecting the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund.

Etude du projet de loi 116, Loi concernant le Fonds patrimonial du Nord de l'Ontario.

The Deputy Chairman: Any comments, questions or amendments and, if to sections, would you please indicate which sections?

Mr. Pouliot: Section 3.

The Deputy Chairman: Are there any other amendments, comments or questions and any other sections to be amended?

Mr. Pope: Sections 5, 6 and 7.

The Deputy Chairman: I have sections 3, 5, 6 and 7.

Are there any other sections upon which there are comments, questions or amendments?

We will commence at the beginning of the bill with respect to sections 1 and 2. Shall sections 1 and 2 stand as part of the bill?

Sections 1 and 2 agreed to.

Les articles 1 et 2 sont adoptés.

Section/article 3:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Pouliot moves that section 3 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(4) Every director, except for the minister, shall be a resident of the territorial district of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipis-

sing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Thunder Bay or Timiskaming.

“(5) The composition of the board shall reflect the regional, linguistic and gender makeup of the territorial districts referred to in subsection (4).

“(6) The board shall be composed of representatives from labour, native groups, women’s organizations and small business.”

La vice-présidente: M. Pouliot propose que l’article 3 du projet de loi soit modifié par l’addition des paragraphes suivants:

«(4) A l’exception du ministre, les administrateurs sont des résidents des districts territoriaux d’Algoma, de Cochrane, de Kenora, de Manitoulin, de Nipissing, de Parry Sound, de Rainy River, de Sudbury, de Thunder Bay ou de Timiskaming.

«(5) La composition de conseil d’administration reflète le caractère régional, linguistique et générique de la population des districts territoriaux mentionnés au paragraphe (4).

«(6) Le conseil d’administration se compose de représentants des travailleurs, des autochtones, des organisations de femmes et des petites entreprises.»

1700

Mr. Pouliot: The first amendment enshrines in the legislation the principle that the fund should be controlled by northerners, and we feel that is essential to the vision of the fund. The second amendment attempts to put plainly ordinary people in charge of the fund, no more, no less. It is a very simple rationale for what are actually straightforward, simple amendments that we put forth.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: We will be voting against those three. It was in my statement that all regions in the north will be represented. Again, what is a resident of the north? It is hard to define. If a woman is working in Toronto for one day a week and goes back to the north, is she a resident of the north? I would rather leave it to the board of directors of this to define the terms of reference when they are in place.

In my statement I said that all groups would be represented: labour, native groups, women’s organizations and small business. This is in my statement. I made at least 10 speeches in the north on this and I will go along with this, but not in the bill. I think it should be on the outside, and the same thing with the board. “The board shall reflect the regional, linguistic and gender makeup.” It is already in my statement, so I would rather wait until the board is in place to put in the rest. I will be voting against those three amendments.

Mr. Pope: I do not understand the reaction of the minister to this. I think it reflected his opening statement on this bill. I understand, perhaps, the need for some flexibility, and I presume that is what the minister is looking at in terms of appointments. But I think as principles embroidered in this legislation, all we are saying is that the board itself shall be composed of residents of northern Ontario, as we understand it to be, and shall be reflective of the makeup. There are no absolute numbers.

It says it will be a balanced, representative board composed of people living in northern Ontario. It is what the minister said in his opening statement. I do not see what is wrong with putting into law what he says. Therefore, our party will support the amendment of the member for Lake Nipigon.

Mr. Harris: I am really surprised at the minister as well, and I want to particularly focus in on subsection 3(4) that is being proposed to be added. Subsection 5 says, “The composition of the board shall reflect the regional, linguistic and gender makeup of the territorial districts referred to in subsection (4).”

I understand 5. I do not see why the minister does not support it since he says that is what is there. But he may be able to argue that subsection 5 may cause him some problems in getting the best people on the board. For example, if there is a board of 20, he has already identified 10 very capable women and he wants to put two more women on, somebody may be able to point to this and say he is going to have to appoint more men. I understand the minister’s wanting that flexibility in some of those. Given that the numbers are so loose, I think the minister could live within that.

It is the same with subsection 6. I understand the minister’s not wanting to get into a head count, if you like. Perhaps there would be one or two native members on the board and he would want to appoint a third who would be an excellent candidate for the board. He might be able to argue: “No, I cannot do that because the native population of the north does not justify three. I will have to stick with two.” So I could understand if the minister stood in his place and started to make those arguments instead of just saying he is opposed, off the snuff.

We are here, we hope, in intelligent debate to try to look at the resolutions and the amendments that are being put forward. I have not heard those arguments from the minister. Perhaps having put the words in his mouth, he may take those upon himself. Were he to make those in a very strong and forceful way about 5 and 6, I could

understand a ministerial concern. I tell him that on balance I too, like the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), will be supporting all the amendments in spite of some of the arguments I have put forward that a minister may have wanted to make.

But subsection 4 just says the board members will be from the north. That does not put any restriction on the government at all as to gender, linguistics or region. All it says is that you cannot appoint somebody from southern Ontario. If the minister is not prepared to accept subsection 4, then he really does not believe the things he has been espousing about northern Ontario and about who is going to run this fund. If he is serious about it, I think he should seriously take another look at subsection 4, as has been moved by my colleague.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I do not understand why the member is getting so exercised. I think this minister has shown great responsibility in putting forward the bill. I think what we are looking for here is the best people to sit on that council. If a northern person who has been—

Mr. Harris: Not from southern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Would the member just listen for a minute? I listened to him.

The fact of the matter is that if you have a person who is truly interested in northern Ontario, who happens to have moved to the south and who would be a very valuable person on that board and is considered a northerner, I cannot see how you would leave him off the board if he was going to be the kind of person that would be helpful.

I think this minister is very capable of putting true representation from northern Ontario on the board, which is what he is telling the members he is going to do, and I trust him in his judgement.

Mr. Harris: Now the truth is coming out. Sure, if somebody had a cottage up there, if somebody lived in downtown Toronto but had a cottage. Now we get the thinking—because it is exactly your silly kind of thinking that is going to cause the problem. Sure, if somebody has a cottage up around Rabbit Lake and lives in downtown Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: When the member stood in his place to make his arguments, I listened intently. It is a very serious matter. I wish he would do the same.

Mr. Harris: They were stupid comments. When people are stupid, then you get up and comment.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: No, not at all. I make the comment again: If a northern Ontarian happens to have moved down here somehow and still is doing business as it relates to northern Ontario, the member would not allow him to sit on this board. I think that is wrong.

Mr. Harris: I don't.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I know the member does not or he would not have said it, I hope.

Mr. Pouliot: We have quite a few people; we up north are one tenth of the population in this province of 9.1 million or 9.15 million people.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: And others coming from there.

Mr. Pouliot: No, one second, give me a break.

With the highest respect to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Kerrio), I doubt very much that he has read those simple words if he can stand there and honestly feel that the bill is jeopardized, is weakened, is changed in any way by inserting subsection 3(4). It is a normal request, a reasonable request.

I am sure that if the member were standing here now, he would make a much more forceful argument, better I am sure than I will ever be able to do, for the need not to sanctify but to give added credibility—it needs it—by saying that normally the directors will be people from northern Ontario—

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: From.

Mr. Pouliot: —living in northern Ontario.

Interjection.

Mr. Pouliot: OK, come on.

Je peux faire ça en français, ce sera plus facile pour le ministre du Développement du Nord (M. Fontaine).

Interjection.

M. Pouliot: Je peux le faire en français ou en espagnol, vous savez, ce sera plus facile pour nous tous.

To have the northern Ontario heritage fund administered by northern people—I would rather be in this position than in the minister's saying "No, we won't give you that guarantee." If the same proposal had come this afternoon—he cannot say this, but I can—from one of his distinguished colleagues, the minister would have been overtaken by spontaneous acquiescence.

We know the minister is committed. Common sense should dictate—go to the press if you do not believe me—that the very nature of subsection

3(4) does only one thing. It is a very mild amendment.

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With all the sincerity I can command, I say that if by virtue or by reason of the way the game is played—I should not call it a game—I cannot even move this because I am “on the other or wrong side of the House,” what the heck am I doing here?

I have several other amendments. They do not have a chance of passing. They do not have a chance in hell. I said, “Why, don’t you do this?” you know, really, believe me one more time.

Why are you doing this to me, to the people of the north? We are asking that we be represented by our own, and we cannot even get the minister to swallow that. Give me a break. God, oh God.

Mr. Reville: On a point of order, Madam Chairman: I am sure no member of the Legislature would object to the minister moving down to the front row and having his adviser come and sit so that he can perhaps hear the debate more easily.

The Deputy Chairman: Do I have the unanimous consent of the House to allow that to occur? Agreed?

Agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: I would request that we wait until the movement is completed.

Do I have the unanimous consent of the House for the minister to occupy the Deputy Premier’s desk as well?

Mr. Reville: Temporarily.

The Deputy Chairman: Temporarily. Thank you.

Agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Just to clarify a point, because I think there might be a little misunderstanding, I am saying in this particular amendment that if we are dealing with where people live, I just want to draw something to your attention. You could have a northern Ontarian who is very, very interested in this kind of involvement, living in southern Ontario, who would not qualify to sit on that board. You could have a southern Ontarian who moves into the north who is there for a very short period of time and who qualifies.

All I am suggesting is that we reach the people who are northerners, wherever they might be, and have northern interests at heart. Now how the member can turn that around, I do not understand.

Mr. Pope: I have to voice my disagreement with the Minister of Natural Resources. I see no more perfect example of the kinds of concerns that the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot) is raising than what the minister did to the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fontaine) on the parks policy last week.

Mr. Reycraft: The member for Lake Nipigon has implied—perhaps stated—in his remarks that the minister is not firm in his commitment that the northern development fund will be administered by northerners. That is not the case. The minister has said repeatedly that fund will be administered by northerners, by people from northern Ontario.

Surely the member for Lake Nipigon and the member for Nipissing (Mr. Harris) and the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) understand that the problem in legislation is one of definition. Certainly someone who lives in the south for only a small number of days per year should not be considered an inappropriate individual to be appointed to this board.

The member for Nipissing lives here in Metropolitan Toronto for four days a week, I believe, as does the member for Lake Nipigon. For the member for Cochrane South it has been a few days less for the last several months, but previous to that it was four days a week.

I am sure they understand. They would claim that any one of those three individuals would make a fine candidate for this board of directors, because all of them, in their hearts, feel very sincerely for the needs of the people of northern Ontario. They would not want themselves to be disqualified as candidates for that board of directors, I am sure. But they would complain bitterly if someone from southern Ontario who spent only a few days per year in the north was deemed to be qualified for this board.

The problem, I repeat, is one of definition. The minister’s commitment has been stated again and again. He has been firm. He wants and intends the northern development fund to be administered by northerners.

Mr. Pope: After hearing the words of the member for Middlesex (Mr. Reycraft), no wonder the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Brown) is embarrassed in his seat right now.

I want to say that the member for Middlesex ought not to play those kinds of games with the Legislature. If he wants to put in a definition of “resident” the same as the definition of “resident” under the Land Transfer Tax Act of Ontario, or if he wants to define “ordinarily resident” in

accordance with the terms of the Income Tax Act of Canada, he can be my guest and make that amendment. He knows as well as I do that the member for Lake Nipigon is talking about people who are ordinarily resident in northern Ontario in every sense of the word as is generally understood in the laws of Canada and this province. So let's not play games with that kind of wording.

Mr. Harris: Very briefly to the Minister of Natural Resources and the chief government whip. I think they may want to reconsider their positions, because I think the minister has some sympathy for subsection 3(4). I understand and I pointed out some of the difficulties he may have with subsections 3(5) and 3(6), but subsection 3(4) is really putting into the act what in fact the minister wants.

The arguments by the member for Middlesex about definition: We do not have a difficulty with allowing the minister to interpret the definition in any logical way he wishes to interpret being a resident of northern Ontario. The Minister of Natural Resources said we would eliminate somebody who has moved from northern Ontario to southern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: That's right, and vice versa.

Mr. Harris: No, we do not eliminate anybody who has moved from southern Ontario to the north.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Why would you have him on the board?

Mr. Harris: I would not. Maybe the minister would, but our amendment does not say we have to put him on the board.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: Support the amendment then.

Mr. Harris: Do not be so stupid, and listen.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: You should talk.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I would advise that all honourable members—

Mr. Harris: Do not be so stupid, and listen. The minister is saying that the reason he is opposed to this is that he does not want a minister to appoint somebody who moves from southern Ontario to northern Ontario for three days.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I didn't say that.

Mr. Harris: If there is a minister in the government who will do something that stupid—well. Do not be ridiculous. What we are talking about here—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. A point of order from the member from Middlesex.

Mr. Reycraft: Madam Chairman, on a point of order: Under the standing orders, when the House is in committee of the whole, speakers are to address the chair. The member for Nipissing is very clearly not doing that.

Mr. Harris: Madam Chairman, I apologize through you to the stupid Minister of Natural Resources.

The Deputy Chairman: I would remind all members to be very cautious with their language. As you all know, under the standing orders, we are not to use language that is liable to incite the House. I would request that you be a little more judicious in your use of language.

Mr. Harris: Nothing in the amendment has to do with whether somebody just moves up there. If this amendment does not go through, and some minister wants to appoint somebody who just moved up there, they can do it. If this amendment goes through, they can do it. Nothing has changed. So to confuse the issue with what I think is a silly argument—I retract “silly member.” It was a silly argument. I do not know what kind of member puts forth a silly argument, but I will no longer call him silly. The argument is silly.

Now what we are dealing with is his concern that somebody originally from northern Ontario, who moves to the south, will be excluded from the board. The amendment does do that, and I think that is good. I think there are thousands of talented people in northern Ontario to choose from for this board. If we choose to eliminate somebody who deserted the north and moved to the south, I do not think that is bad.

We want people who live in the north, who live there now, not people who said, “I do not want to stay in the north. I want to come to southern Ontario,” and not people who have never lived in northern Ontario. We want people on this board who, truly indeed, live and reflect northern Ontario today. The minister wants that. I say with respect, I think the minister—I noticed him consulting—is considering, “Maybe I should take subsection 3(4). It is indeed what I want.” I would encourage the minister to once again ignore his southern colleagues, as I know he has had to do on a number of occasions, and to consider seriously taking the amendment to subsection 3(4).

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Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First of all, I would like to say to the member for Nipissing that there are a few words that he said around here that I did not like. OK, he retracted those words, but it is still

in the minds of the people who are living outside the north. I want to remind the member for Nipissing that, as a former mayor of the town of Hearst and as a businessman, when you look at what the people of the south have done—I mean it is OK to talk about this and this. We saw that in the whole north because there was always a fight between two or three ministers, between the northwest and the northeast, and we all suffered.

One thing I tried to do when I came here and I was alone as a minister—today there are seven members from northern Ontario in the caucus and we have three in the cabinet—I tried to talk about only one Ontario. But the north is there as an entity, not to separate it. I did not like the way he talked about the southerners in office. That I do not like. If we did that all the time through our lives, maybe northern Ontario would be nothing. Even in his own cabinet, I am sure at times he thought that maybe those guys should listen more to us. But still, I am sure the premiers at that time, Mr. Davis, Mr. Robarts and Mr. Frost, looked at the north too, and they were from southern Ontario.

Maybe I will make some changes. I will be drafting it. If they want to accept that, OK. But if they do not, we will vote on it later.

I would like to amend this motion by striking out subsections 4 and 5 and the words “as”—

The Deputy Chairman: No. You have to deal with this amendment first. Then, if you wish to put an amendment afterwards, you may do so.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: OK.

Mr. Pouliot: The minister will put his own amendment, is that what he is saying?

Deputy Chairman: That is right. It is my understanding—and may I be very clear, Mr. Minister, what you are intending to do—you are intending to put an amendment to section 3 yourself.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: It is my ruling that we have to deal with the amendment to section 3 that was brought forth by the member for Lake Nipigon first and then the other amendment may be put at that time, before we leave section 3.

Mr. Harris: It might save a lot of time and debate if the minister could read the amendment he is proposing to put into the record as part of the debate on this. I think he can do that.

The Deputy Chairman: That would be satisfactory.

Mr. Harris: Then we would know what, in fact, he is proposing and it might help us.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Minister, then as part of the debate with respect to the proposed amendment to section 3, do you wish to make a further statement?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: No. I will make sure my amendment fits, OK? I amend this motion by striking out subsections 4 and 5 and the words “as” and “of” in the second line of subsection 4, replacing them in the second line with “ordinarily” and “in” respectively. It is OK?

The Deputy Chairman: I will require to have that amendment in writing before I can put it.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: OK.

The Deputy Chairman: While the copy is being made, the member for Simcoe West, do you wish to comment upon clause 3? We are speaking to the amendment put forward by the member for Lake Nipigon at this time.

Mr. McCague: There has been some discussion this afternoon about whether or not if you move away from the north you should be qualified to still sit on the board. I just want to point out, particularly to the government members, an amendment which the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Mr. Eakins) is asking us to approve in Bill 106.

In the explanatory note it says, “Sections 37 and 38 of the Municipal Act are amended to clarify that a person must hold the qualifications for office to be elected and must continue to hold the qualifications during the term of office.”

Simply said, if you are on a council of a municipality and you move away, you lose your position.

Now why would we want to be different in the case of this board? Why would we not apply the same kind of rules? If somebody moved away, as my colleague from Lake Nipigon or from Nipissing has said, why would the same rule not apply? If somebody moves away, he moves away from the job he had, that great-paying job, or maybe it is a no-pay job that the minister is proposing.

Why do they not be consistent? If that is what they have proposed there, why do they not agree then that if a person moves away from the north, he is not on the board any longer?

The Deputy Chairman: Does any other member wish to comment? If not, are we ready for the question with respect to the amendment?

Mr. Harris: I am sorry, Madam Chairman, I think the minister is now proposing an amendment to the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: OK, fine. Is that correct? One moment, please. Is the minister

now proposing an amendment to the amendment that was put forward by the member for Lake Nipigon?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: Yes.

The Deputy Chairman: May I hear that, if the minister wishes? I will have to have it in writing as well.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I amend this motion by striking subsections 5 and 6—and the words “a” and “of” in the second line of subsection 4 and replacing them with “ordinarily” and “in,” respectively.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the minister have that in writing? May I have that in writing, please?

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: And I strike 5 and 6.

The Deputy Chairman: The minister moves an amendment to the motion put forward by the member for Lake Nipigon by striking out subsections 5 and 6 and the words “a” and “of” in the second line of subsection 4 and replacing them in the second line with “ordinarily” and “in,” respectively.

Mr. Pope: As I understand it now, the net effect of this is that section 3 is amended by in fact adding subsection 4, which will read: “Every director, except for the minister, shall be ordinarily resident in the territorial district of Algoma, Cochrane, Kenora, Manitoulin, Nipissing, Parry Sound, Rainy River, Sudbury, Thunder Bay or Timiskaming.”

The Deputy Chairman: That is my understanding of the amendment as well.

Mr. Pope: Then that would complete section 3 of the bill, and if the member for Lake Nipigon is accepting that amendment to his amendment and that is the net effect of where we are, we are prepared to abide by the wishes of the House.

Mr. Pouliot: I am delighted that the minister has chosen to enshrine the thrust of our wisdom, if you wish, or of our amendment, and we will be supporting his amendment.

Mr. Harris: We will support the amendment, and as I said, I pointed out I could understand the concern of a minister, or certainly, the civil servants advising him with subsections 3(5) and (6) as maybe tying things down too tight, but I do think the amendment is in the spirit of what we were talking about with section 4. I congratulate the minister on being willing to listen to the point that was put forward and for ignoring the comments of the Minister of Natural Resources.

Hon. Mr. Kerrio: I think the member for Nipissing would, if he were a gentleman, make an apology for the kind of language he used. While I do not expect that, I would not resort to that kind of description of the honourable gentleman myself.

Having said that, I have no difficulty at all when the minister who is putting the bill is willing to listen to the arguments and accept that amendment. It does not take away from the position I was in to support this minister, for whom I have such great respect. If the member would like to send me the apology in writing, it would be accepted.

Mr. Harris: I think I indicated to you, Madam Chairman, that I would not in the future refer to the minister as silly; only the argument. I apologize if I called him silly or stupid. The argument was silly and stupid, but I do want to withdraw the comment with respect to the individual and I apologize.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I think I have to make the same amendments in French.

The Deputy Chairman: If it is satisfactory, do I have the agreement of the House that legislative counsel may put it in French so that it has the appropriate wording?

Agreed to.

Adopté.

The Deputy Chairman: Then we may proceed. Mr. Pouliot has moved an amendment to section 3 of the bill, which has been amended by the minister, and the motion for that amendment reads—do I dispense with respect to that?

Agreed to.

Adopté.

The Deputy Chairman: Then we will have a vote, first, upon the amendment to the amendment. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

The Deputy Chairman: We will now vote on the amendment put forward by the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Pouliot), as amended by the amendment put forward by the minister. Just for clearance's sake, would you like me to read that as it now stands? Dispense?

Agreed to.

Adopté.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

The Deputy Chairman: May we now go to section 3 as amended by the vote that we have just put? I remind all members that there are now four clauses to section 3. Do you dispense with me reading the clause as it now stands?

Agreed to.

Adopté.

The Deputy Chairman: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

La motion est adoptée.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 3, as amended, carry?

Section 3, as amended, agreed to.

L'article 3, modifié, est adopté.

Section 4 agreed to.

L'article 4 est adopté.

Section/article 5:

Mr. Pope: I have an amendment to section 5 that I wish to read into the record. I will do so and then give an explanation.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Pope moves that section 5 of the said act be amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of the second line of clause (b) and relettering clause (c) of section 5 to read "f" and by adding the following:

"(c) to provide and guarantee to every resident of northern Ontario equality of opportunity for education, training, skills development and social and economic enhancement and improvement;

"(d) to create more and more highly skilled and diversified employment opportunities for residents of northern Ontario;

"(e) to diversify the economic base of northern Ontario with particular emphasis on single-resource communities and areas of traditional high unemployment and further with particular emphasis on the development of small business and economic endeavours employing research and technological development capacities and facilities in northern Ontario; and"

Mr. Pope: I cannot claim authorship of this amendment. In fact, it was the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Kozyra), whose words I extracted from his speech last Tuesday and placed into the amendment. I presume that he and others in the Liberal caucus will therefore be supporting this amendment.

Hon. Mr. Wrye: While my colleague the Minister of Northern Development (Mr. Fon-

taine) is getting clarification on some parts of the amendment, perhaps I could indicate that as I was listening to my friend the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope) read the amendment—and I would like him to comment on this—it seemed to me that in the explanation the new clauses (c), (d) and (e) seem to be going over ground covered in clauses (a) and (b) of the section.

I noted particularly the mention, I believe within clause (e), of the word "diversification," which I say to my friend the member for Cochrane South is found in clause (a). Also, the wording of the second of his amended clauses seems to simply add some specificity to the current clause (b) of section 5, which has the words "to promote and stimulate economic initiatives."

I am wondering if my friend the member for Cochrane South, who I know has been listening quite attentively, would indicate why he has found it necessary to propose that we widen clauses (a) and (b). Perhaps at that point my colleague the minister may want to make some comments.

Mr. Pope: My understanding of the process that was engaged in, the consultation process that we embarked upon over the past year and a half—and perhaps the government House leader can wave when he is ready—was that it involved conferences that were held and hosted by the Premier (Mr. Peterson) and meetings that the Minister of Northern Development was involved in with other cabinet colleagues in various parts of northern Ontario, to assemble opinions and suggestions from residents of northern Ontario about the particular concerns they had as northerners, how they saw limitations being placed on them for no particular reason they could blame anyone for, but limitations or restrictions on their own personal and economic development that they found confronted them living in northern Ontario.

Added to that process was the development of the northern development councils the minister and the government announced early last year and which in fact have met for the last 18 months to try to make recommendations to the minister.

In the debate last week, the parliamentary assistant to the minister, the member for Port Arthur, in response really to my suggestions, read out his recollection of the nine criteria that the representatives of the northern development councils had agreed upon as being the priorities that the northern Ontario heritage fund should address.

These are virtually word for word the recommendations which are lumped into three specific sections, and they provide more specificity to the "objects" clause of the corporation. But they also give a clear direction, both to the councils that have to administer it and from which these recommendations have emanated and also to the residents of northern Ontario, as to what the Minister of Northern Development and the heritage fund corporate board of directors see as their specific mandate.

I know that there are three existing clauses, none of which I touched, except for relettering (c) to read (f), dealing with advising and making recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council with respect to matters relating to the economy of northern Ontario. That is an advisory role; that is not an administrative role. That is to give advice to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, i.e. cabinet, on matters concerning northern Ontario's economy.

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The second one is "to promote and stimulate economic initiatives in northern Ontario." Under that heading, perhaps, these might fit. I do not think they necessarily do and I think the minister has to be more specific on what kind of economic initiatives. For instance, would he consider the northern heritage fund to fund the diversification of a manufacturing plant into northern Ontario from one of the major car makers, which I think is due, or would the fund be more wide open and would it relate to general government economic activity in northern Ontario, and therefore, would other government ministries fund themselves out of the northern Ontario heritage fund, using this mandate?

I do not think that is intended, but certainly we are not talking about how it will now be used. We are talking about future interpretations and how it could be used or abused, depending on your point of view, in the absence of specific criteria that will direct the directors of the fund.

I think the minister is ready to answer now.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: First, the idea the member for Cochrane South is bringing in is OK, but I do not want that to be part of the bill. The reason is that we have told the people of northern Ontario that the directors will decide what they are going to do with that fund. That is why the terms of reference are loose. I am going to say that maybe at some time the member for Cochrane South could go in front of the board and talk to it, as he is doing here today, and tell it about his idea.

Second, I want to remind him about training and skills development. It is already being done by another ministry. Still, the reason we left it this way, I reiterate, is to let the directors of the board decide where it is going to use that money. I do not want to add anything to this today. I want to let the board members decide. I am sure the board at one time will ask the opposition members to speak to it and is going to consult, but it is up to the people in the north. We politicians here will give them a tool, but it will be up to them, the directors, to decide.

Mr. Pope: I guess I have to say that if what the minister has said were the policy of the government, then it would have said in this legislation that the objects of the corporation were to be established by the board, period.

That is not what this act says. It does set out objective clauses. I understand that object clauses are part of any incorporation and the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Wrye) would acknowledge that. However, I see three object clauses in the existing legislation: One is advisory, one allows them to enter into contracts and one says "to promote and stimulate economic initiatives in northern Ontario."

I am not sure what that means. I am not sure how that could be interpreted to restrict, for reasons that relate to my other amendments, the flow of funds to the northern Ontario heritage fund board of directors. I am not sure an interpretation of that by the Treasurer (Mr. R. F. Nixon), for instance, would not attach as a condition on the transfer of moneys to the board. I am not sure the limitations by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, i.e. the cabinet of Ontario, might not at a future time be restricted by a restrictive definition of clause 5(b), namely, the objects clause, and I do not want to take a chance on the board of directors being stifled.

I think this is more all-inclusive and embodies, almost word for word, the words of the member for Port Arthur and the recommendations of the local development councils which the Minister of Northern Development asked to provide a list of priorities for the use of the fund. As I understood the member for Port Arthur, there were nine priorities established, on balance supported by most of the development councils, and it is that wording I wished to implement. I do not think it unduly restricts the board. I think it protects the integrity of the board to carry on the initiatives that its members themselves feel northerners want.

Hon. Mr. Fontaine: I want to reiterate that I too consulted with the northern development councils. I consulted two weeks ago with the people of northern Ontario, with the mayors and reeves of my area. I told them what I am telling the member today, that they are going to decide how they are going to use the money. I got a standing ovation, so I must be saying a few good things.

This is the promise I made and that is why I do not want to complicate the issue. I want them to decide where they are going to use the money. I am sure there will be no restriction. I am telling the member they will look at my statement, at what I said in the House. Again, I am sure the board will not allow me to manipulate it. I deal with about 123 of those people already with the NDCs and I do not manipulate them either. Those 17, 18 or 20 members will not let me, or any government or any member, tell them what to do. They are going to decide. They are waiting for this and they are going to decide themselves what they are going to do.

Mr. Pouliot: I have some difficulties with the first clause, with respect, if I may quote—this is an amendment from our friends, ironically, to the left—“to provide and guarantee to every resident of northern Ontario equality of opportunity for education, training, skills development and social and economic enhancement and improvement.” Had we access to a mere percentage of what is being proposed, there would be no need for the northern heritage fund. In fact, we would be willing to have a southern heritage fund. It would be needed. They would wish to re-establish the difference between north and south.

I too wish to make the bill a real working bill, a functional bill. There is no contradiction. We opposed it on second reading. We are pleased with the amendment. We now have the guarantee that it will be strengthened by being administered for northerners by northerners and it meets our vision of the fund.

I think that when the objects of the bill are “to promote and stimulate,” the way you are seen is very important. If it is administered by northerners—and they are perfectly capable of doing so—you are going some way towards achieving more credibility.

In terms of “to create,” and I am quoting from the proposed amendment by my friend the member for Cochrane South, “(d) To create more, and more highly skilled and diversified employment opportunities for residents of northern Ontario,” we can dream, and dream in Technicolor. It will come one day and I am sure

there will be a focus to do exactly that. But to direct people in a law that they have to do so—We must remind ourselves that we are resource based. The nature of the north does not necessarily always, or at most times, lend itself to respecting the spirit of the legislation and its intent by saying we will have more skills.

If this were to pass, maybe the money would be sitting accumulating interest for quite a long time because we could not meet its criteria, so I am somewhat defensive.

Of course, on the other hand, when I get to the proposed amendment put forward by the member for Cochrane South, which is clause (e), “To diversify the economic base of northern Ontario with particular emphasis on single-resource communities,” he was doing so well, I could say, and then by the third line we were right back at the table of sin. I like the intent to diversify and I do not think we have to enshrine that in the legislation. I think it speaks for itself that the very purpose of the fund is not to copy anything that has been done before but to give people new and more opportunities.

I think the fund addresses that. I have some difficulty in acquiescing in the support sought by the member for Cochrane South and members of his party, although I do respect that his intent was, perhaps, with some passion, but with no vengeance whatsoever, but I have difficulty with the specifics of the amendments.

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Mr. Pope: Very briefly, I do not apologize for expressing in legislative terms the dreams or aspirations of northerners and I do not think any northerner should apologize for putting it into law. I do not think we have to be defensive about what we expect our northern Ontario heritage fund to do. It was set up specifically with the policy direction and with great fanfare by the government to do something significant, special and extraordinary for northern Ontario.

The development councils themselves have used these words. The member for Port Arthur, in reporting on the development councils, has used these words. They may be lofty goals or ideals or dreams, but what is wrong with having those as the objectives so that every resident of northern Ontario, man, woman and child, can look forward to the northern Ontario heritage fund trying to accomplish some of these goals that we set for it?

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Pope's amendment will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Do I have unanimous consent of the House to stack the votes?

Mr. Harris: Could we agree to stack the votes until the bill is finished or until tomorrow?

The Deputy Chairman: I have a suggestion made by the member for Nipissing that we stack the votes until the bill is completed tomorrow.

Mr. Harris: Until the bill is finished.

The Deputy Chairman: Until the bill is finished.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Certainly, I am quite agreeable to stack these votes until we have concluded this process. Then we will, by consent of House leaders, organize that as needs be.

Agreed to.

Vote stacked.

On section 6:

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Pope moves that subsection 6(2) be amended by deleting "may" in the second line and by replacing it with the word "shall;" and that subsection 6(2) be amended by adding, after the word "grants" in the second line the words "not in any fiscal year to be less than \$30 million;" and

That subsection 6(2) be amended by deleting the words "subject to such conditions as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable" and by replacing them with the words "without condition or limitation save as imposed by this act, and such grants shall immediately be deposited in an account or accounts in branches of chartered banks or duly licensed financial institutions located in northern Ontario.

The Deputy Chairman: May I just have a moment to look at the first part of that? If you would like to discuss the second part, you can continue with the second part.

Mr. Pope: Just to indicate how subsection 6(2) would now read, this is 6(2): "The minister, out of moneys appropriated therefor by the Legislature, shall make grants, not in any fiscal year to be less than \$30 million, to the corporation for deposit in the fund without condition or limitation, save as imposed by this act, and such grants shall immediately be deposited in an account or accounts in branches of chartered banks or duly licensed financial institutions located in northern Ontario."

The effect of this is that the Treasurer, the minister and the government must pay to the fund every year \$30 million as a minimum. They must pay it as a minimum, without condition other than "as imposed by this act," and they must

deposit that \$30 million in a northern Ontario branch of a chartered bank or financial institution. That is the effect of the amendments.

The Deputy Chairman: I have reviewed carefully the first part of your amendment. From what you have said and from looking at it carefully, it would appear that the first part is out of order under standing order 15. Standing order 15 states that a bill cannot specifically direct the allocation of public funds. In my opinion, that directs the allocation of public funds directly. Therefore, I rule that the first part is out of order.

Mr. Pope: I want to speak to that ruling.

The Deputy Chairman: If the member wishes to challenge my ruling, he may do so.

Mr. Pope: Do not start that. We will be here all night. What I am trying to say is that the government has the ability to agree to that amendment and solve that.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. If I have made the ruling, that is my understanding. I find that if you wish to challenge the ruling, you may do so. To do that, we can—

Mr. Harris: Madam Chairman, can we ask questions about the ruling so that you might assist us in your capacity as chairperson to arrive at what we want to accomplish? If that is OK, I would like to ask you a few questions.

The Deputy Chairman: As you are aware, the standing order says "directly." If you wish to challenge it, you may do so. There should not be any discussion.

Mr. Harris: I am not challenging your ruling, Madam Chairman. What I am asking is if I can ask you some questions about it that will facilitate us in coming up with what we want to do.

The Deputy Chairman: I should not get into the debate with respect to it. If you wish to have a moment to speak to the government House leader or to the minister with respect to that, I am more than prepared to allow you to do that, because I assume there is something that you may be able to come to an accommodation about.

Mr. Harris: I do not understand what it is that you object to, Madam Chairman. Do you object to the word "shall"? Are you saying you are ruling it out of order if the word "shall" is in there and everything else is out? Are you ruling it out of order if the word "shall" is there with the "\$30 million"? I do not know what to challenge yet.

Hon. Mr. Conway: As I understand the first part of the amendment standing in the name of the member for Cochrane South and the interpre-

tation of the chair, which quite frankly would be my view, the purport of the first portion of the amendment of the member for Cochrane South is to direct the expenditure of public funds. That certainly is at variance, I would argue, with standing order 15. That is what I understand the debate to be about.

The Deputy Chairman: If I might—

Mr. Harris: I asked a specific question.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Nipissing is the last member I will hear with respect to this.

Mr. Harris: I guess if the "\$30 million" is in there, if "shall" instead of "may" makes it out of order, I might understand that. If the second part of the amendment is not in there, if the word "shall" is the only amendment that was put, in my view that then applies to "shall out of the moneys appropriated." In other words, the appropriation of money is there. We are not calling for the appropriation of moneys. Once the government, the Treasurer and the cabinet say, "Here is the money. This is the amount of money," all we are doing is saying "shall."

What I am asking is whether it is out of order if "shall" is in there and the "30 million" is out, or whether it is out of order because the "\$30 million" is in there as well.

The Deputy Chairman: I would make the ruling is that it is out of order because the "shall" is there and also because of the "\$30 million." Both of those offend standing order 15 in that it is directing the allocation of public funds.

If you wish to challenge that ruling, you may do so. If not, we will continue discussion on this

amendment with respect to the second part; that is, "subject to such conditions as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers advisable," etc.

Mr. Pope: I apologize, Madam Chairman. Is your ruling not applicable if the words "not in any fiscal year to be less than \$30 million" are deleted?

The Deputy Chairman: "Shall" offends section 15 as well, and also "not in any fiscal year." Both of them do offend.

Mr. Pope: On a point of order, Madam Chairman: Could you rule then whether or not subsection 6(2) is objectionable and out of order on the same basis? It talks about appropriation of funds.

The Deputy Chairman: With respect to the second, it is my understanding, and I so find, that the second part of it has a minister of the crown making the allocation and that it would be appropriate.

It being six of the clock, I will rise—

Mr. Harris: Good idea. Let's adjourn.

Hon. Mr. Conway: Just before moving that the committee rise and report, I would just say, from listening to this discussion, that there may be a way in which the spirit of this can be captured using different language and we might use the opportunity of the next few hours to try to do that.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Conway, the committee of the whole reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(130 seats)

First Session, 34th Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. Lincoln M. Alexander, PC, QC

-
- Adams, Peter (Peterborough L)
 Allen, Richard (Hamilton West NDP)
 Ballinger, William G. (Durham-York L)
 Beer, Charles (York North L)
 Black, Kenneth H. (Muskoka-Georgian Bay L)
 Bossy, Maurice L. (Chatham-Kent L)
Bradley, Hon. James J., Minister of the Environment (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Andrew S. (Sarnia PC)
 Breaugh, Michael J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Brown, Michael A. (Algoma-Manitoulin L)
 Bryden, Marion (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Callahan, Robert V. (Brampton South L)
 Campbell, Sterling (Sudbury L)
Caplan, Hon. Elinor, Minister of Health (Orillia L)
 Carrothers, Douglas A. (Oakville South L)
 Charlton, Brian A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Chiarelli, Robert (Ottawa West L)
 Cleary, John C. (Cornwall L)
 Collins, Shirley (Wentworth East L)
Conway, Hon. Sean G., Minister of Mines (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, David R. (Kitchener L)
 Cooke, David S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
 Cordiano, Joseph (Lawrence L)
 Cousens, W. Donald (Markham PC)
 Cunningham, Dianne E. (London North PC)
 Cureatz, Sam L. (Durham East PC)
Curling, Hon. Alvin, Minister of Skills Development (Scarborough North L)
 Daigeler, Hans (Nepean L)
 Dietsch, Michael M. (St. Catharines-Brock L)
Eakins, Hon. John F., Minister of Municipal Affairs (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Edighoffer, Hon. Hugh A., Speaker (Perth L)
 Elliot, R. Walter (Halton North L)
Elston, Hon. Murray J., Chairman of the Management Board of Cabinet (Bruce L)
 Epp, Herbert A. (Waterloo North L)
 Eves, Ernie L. (Parry Sound PC)
 Farnan, Michael (Cambridge NDP)
 Faubert, Frank (Scarborough-Ellesmere L)
 Fawcett, Joan M. (Northumberland L)
 Ferraro, Rick E. (Guelph L)
 Fleet, David (High Park-Swansea L)
Fontaine, Hon. René, Minister of Northern Development (Cochrane North L)
Fulton, Hon. Ed, Minister of Transportation (Scarborough East L)
 Furlong, Allan W. (Durham Centre L)
Grandmaître, Hon. Bernard C., Minister of Revenue (Ottawa East L)
 Grier, Ruth A. (Etobicoke-Lakeshore NDP)
 Haggerty, Ray (Niagara South L)
 Hampton, Howard (Rainy River NDP)
 Harris, Michael D. (Nipissing PC)
 Hart, Christine E. (York East L)
 Henderson, D. James (Etobicoke-Humber L)
Hošek, Hon. Chaviva, Minister of Housing (Oakwood L)
 Jackson, Cameron (Burlington South PC)
 Johnson, Jack (Wellington PC)
 Johnston, Richard F. (Scarborough West NDP)
 Kanter, Ron (St. Andrew-St. Patrick L)
Kerrio, Hon. Vincent G., Minister of Natural Resources (Niagara Falls L)
 Keyes, Kenneth A. (Kingston and The Islands L)
 Kozyra, Taras B. (Port Arthur L)
Kwinter, Hon. Monte, Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology (Wilson Heights L)
 Laughren, Floyd (Nickel Belt NDP)
 LeBourdais, Linda (Etobicoke West L)
 Leone, Laureano (Downsview L)
 Lipsett, Ron (Grey L)
 Lupusella, Tony (Dovercourt L)
 MacDonald, Keith (Prince Edward-Lennox L)
 Mackenzie, Bob (Hamilton East NDP)
 Mahoney, Steven W. (Mississauga West L)
Mancini, Hon. Remo, Minister without Portfolio (Essex South L)
 Marland, Margaret (Mississauga South PC)
 Martel, Shelley (Sudbury East NDP)
 Matrundola, Gino (Willowdale L)
 McCague, George R. (Simcoe West PC)
 McClelland, Carman (Brampton North L)
 McGuigan, James F. (Essex-Kent L)
 McGuinty, Dalton J. (Ottawa South L)
 McLean, Allan K. (Simcoe East PC)
McLeod, Hon. Lyn, Minister of Colleges and Universities (Fort William L)
 Miclash, Frank (Kenora L)
 Miller, Gordon I. (Norfolk L)

Morin, Gilles E. (Carleton East L)
 Morin-Strom, Karl E. (Sault Ste. Marie NDP)
 Neumann, David E. (Brantford L)
 Nicholas, Cindy (Scarborough Centre L)
 Nixon, J. Bradford (York Mills L)
Nixon, Hon. Robert F., Deputy Premier,
 Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Econom-
 ics and Minister of Financial Institutions
 (Brant-Haldimand L)
Oddie Munro, Hon. Lily, Minister of Culture
 and Communications (Hamilton Centre L)
 Offer, Steven (Mississauga North L)
O'Neil, Hon. Hugh P., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation (Quinte L)
 O'Neill, Yvonne (Ottawa-Rideau L)
 Owen, Bruce (Simcoe Centre L)
Patten, Hon. Richard, Minister of Government
 Services (Ottawa Centre L)
 Pelissero, Harry E. (Lincoln L)
Peterson, Hon. David R., Premier and Presi-
 dent of the Council and Minister of Inter-
 governmental Affairs (London Centre L)
 Philip, Ed (Etobicoke-Rexdale NDP)
Phillips, Hon. Gerry, Minister of Citizenship
 (Scarborough-Agincourt L)
 Poirier, Jean, Deputy Speaker and Chairman of
 the Committees of the Whole House (Prescott
 and Russell L)
 Pollock, Jim (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
 Polsinelli, Claudio (Yorkview L)
 Poole, Dianne (Eglinton L)
 Pope, Alan W. (Cochrane South PC)
 Pouliot, Gilles (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Rae, Bob (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. David, Minister of Correctional
 Services (Timiskaming L)
 Ray, Michael C. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Reville, David (Riverdale NDP)
 Reyecraft, Douglas R. (Middlesex L)
Riddell, Hon. Jack, Minister of Agriculture and
 Food (Huron L)

Roberts, Marietta L. D., Deputy Chairman of the
 Committees of the Whole House (Elgin L)
 Runciman, Robert W. (Leeds-Grenville PC)
 Rüprecht, Tony (Parkdale L)
Scott, Hon. Ian G., Attorney General
 (St. George-St. David L)
 Smith, David W. (Lambton L)
Smith, Hon. E. Joan, Solicitor General
 (London South L)
 Sola, John (Mississauga East L)
Sorbara, Hon. Gregory S., Minister of Labour
 (York Centre L)
 South, Larry (Frontenac-Addington L)
 Sterling, Norman W. (Carleton PC)
 Stoner, Norah (Durham West L)
 Sullivan, Barbara (Halton Centre L)
 Swart, Mel (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Sweeney, Hon. John, Minister of Community
 and Social Services (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
 Tatham, Charlie (Oxford L)
 Velshi, Murad (Don Mills L)
 Villeneuve, Noble (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Ward, Hon. Christopher C., Minister of
 Education (Wentworth North L)
 Wildman, Bud (Algoma NDP)
Wilson, Hon. Mavis, Minister without Portfolio
 (Dufferin-Peel L)
 Wiseman, Douglas J. (Lanark-Renfrew PC)
Wong, Hon. Robert C., Minister of Energy
 (Fort York L)
Wrye, Hon. William, Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations (Windsor-Sandwich L)

*The alphabetical list of members appears in
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